

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

**Actor has
'Sideways' chance
at Oscar win**

Page 21

Thomas Haden Church



**Early polls show
Abbas winner of
Palestinian vote**

Page 12



**Naples woman
starts local
Toastmasters club**

Spotlight, Page 4

Jeannine Fogel

Volume 63, No. 266 © SS 2005 G

MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2005

50¢

Bush, DOD likely to stay focused on Iraq

Analysts: N. Korea, Iran to remain on military's radar in next 4 years

Page 8

California can't shake loose winter storm

Page 9



A stranded motorist is pulled free Saturday by a California Highway Patrol vehicle on Highway 18 near Big Bear, east of Los Angeles. The state continued to sit under a storm system Sunday that brought more heavy rain and snow, and possible flooding. The latest storms were blamed for at least four weekend deaths, including a homeless man killed by a landslide.



Jets' Chad Pennington

**Jets, Rams pull off
wild upsets
in first round
of NFL playoffs**

Back page



Rams' Grant Williams, Blaine Saipaia, Adam Timmerman

STARS & STRIPES

COMING
SOON

Scene on Sunday

Big mess is among
Spain's best bets

Scene on Sunday

Kate Bosworth
does her researchDon't miss a
single issue.For home delivery,
call DSN 349-8437STARS & STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox.....	24
American Roundup.....	18-19
Classified.....	25-27
Comics.....	22-24
Crossword.....	23
Faces.....	21
Horoscope.....	22
Life.....	14
Opinion.....	15
Sports.....	28-36
TV listings.....	20
Weather.....	17
Your Money.....	16

News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Japan-N. Korea relations: Japan remains cautious about imposing economic sanctions on impoverished North Korea for its kidnapping of Japanese nationals decades ago and might ask the United Nations to help resolve the dispute, a senior ruling party official said Sunday.

North Korea says that eight of the 13 Japanese citizens it has admitted to kidnapping in the 1970s and '80s are dead. Japan, which says Pyongyang hasn't offered concrete evidence of their deaths, has demanded an investigation.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi is under pressure from the Japanese public to consider sanctions against the isolated communist regime, but Tokyo worries that it could prevent a breakthrough in six-nation talks aimed at ending the North's nuclear weapons program.

"We have to take a cautious approach," Tsutomu Takebe, the secretary-general of Koizumi's Liberal Democratic Party, said during a talk show aired by public broadcaster NHK.

Pinochet investigation: An investigative judge has found that former dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet accumulated a fortune of \$15.9 million in foreign bank accounts and used Chilean army funds for personal benefit, a newspaper reported Sunday.

The Santiago daily El Mercurio said the information comes from a report prepared by judge Sergio Munoz, who has been investigating Pinochet for five months after a U.S. Senate committee disclosed he kept secret accounts for up to \$8 million at Riggs Bank in Washington.

The newspaper did not disclose how it got the report, but published several photocopies of what it said is the original document.

Italy train collision: Crews finished clearing wreckage from train tracks Sunday, two days after a freight train collided with a passenger train, killing 17 people.

Private TGS TV showed crews working to lay new track on the line between Bologna and Verona, where the two trains smashed head-on into each other on Friday in thick, midday fog near Bologna's Crevalcore, north of Bologna.

On Saturday, firefighters and other rescue workers removed the rest of the mangled bodies found in a nearly crushed train car, raising the final death toll to the accident to 17. A few people remained hospitalized with injuries.

Iran nuclear crisis: Iran will allow U.N. nuclear experts to take environmental samples at a military site the United States links to an alleged nuclear weapons program, but won't allow them to inspect military equipment, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said Sunday.

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamed ElBaradei, had said last week Iran had agreed to grant access to the site at Parchin, just southeast of Tehran, and that his inspectors could arrive soon. The IAEA has been pressing Tehran for months to be allowed to inspect the military complex, long used by Iranians to research, develop and produce ammunition, missiles and high explosives.



Civil rights pioneer: A congressional honor guard carries the flag-draped casket of former Rep. Shirley Chisholm after a memorial service at the First A.M.E. Church of Palm Coast, Fla. She was remembered on Saturday not only for being the first black woman to run for president but for never backing down from her convictions. She was an outspoken champion of women, minorities and the poor during seven terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. Hundreds of mourners, including more than a half dozen members of the Congressional Black Caucus, which Chisholm helped establish, came to the service to honor her.

"The discussion is not about visiting military installations," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi told reporters Sunday.

Jewish Congress meets: Some 500 delegates were to attend the World Jewish Congress' first international meeting in four years on Monday to discuss anti-Semitism in Europe and relations with the Muslim world.

The two-day session of the WJC, will confront what the group calls the "disturbing increase" in anti-Semitism in Europe and elsewhere.

Bronfman and other representatives are to meet with European Union officials, including European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso after the session to discuss the 25-nation bloc can improve ways to combat racism and anti-Semitism.

Bosnian Muslims seek compensation: Montenegrin authorities face millions of dollars in compensation demands from families of Bosnian Muslims who were deported from Montenegro during the war and subsequently killed by Bosnian Serbs, a lawyer said Sunday.

Dragan Prelevic, a Montenegrin lawyer representing victims' families, told the Associated Press that so far five families have sued the authorities, demanding compensation, and many more are planning to do so.

The cases are still being reviewed by the Montenegrin courts.

War on terrorism

Collecting Afghan weapons: Officials began removing tanks and rocket-launchers from the mountain stronghold of a famed anti-Taliban commander on Sunday, the final leg of a drive to collect all the heavy weapons in Afghanistan and help draw a line under its violent past.

Under the watch of U.N. monitors, officials began rounding up 110 tanks, rocket-launchers, missiles and artillery pieces

from the Panjshir Valley, the redoubt of famed commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, who defended it against Soviet occupiers and the Taliban and was a key player in the country's ruinous civil war before his assassination three years ago.

Officials said it would take two weeks to bring the weapons out of the valley, completing a nationwide program to round up heavy armaments and make a renewed outbreak of large-scale hostilities impossible.

Afghan judge arrested: A judge arrested in connection with two bombings that killed about 12 people, including four Americans, in the Afghan capital last year has admitted that the suspected organizers of the attacks lodged at his house, a senior official said Sunday.

Naqubullah, a 60-year-old preliminary court judge, was detained about two weeks ago after two captured suspects said they had stayed in his Kabul residence while they orchestrated an Aug. 29 car bombing at a U.S. security company as well as a suicide attack in the city.

Officials have identified the alleged ringleader as a Tajik national named Mohammed Haidar and say he took his orders from an Iraqi al-Qaida member. They accuse Haidar and an Afghan accomplice of organizing the attacks.

States

Spitzer for N.Y. governor: Looking to impress the news media and possibly scare off potential opponents for the 2006 governor's race, state Attorney General Eliot Spitzer is pleading for a quick infusion of political donations in advance of required financial filings due soon.

Democrat Spitzer, who gained international attention with investigations of Wall Street brokers, mutual fund executives and the insurance industry, announced in early December that he would run for governor.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

New Year... New Car

Ready for a replacement, or just need a second family car?

More rate discounts available.
No payment for 90 days

Contact us for details!

3.99^{MIN}

New, Used &
Refinanced
Autos

APPLY TODAY!

Service
CREDIT UNION

www.servicecu.org

34-Hour Central Contact
06050-4738-3000

*Rate shown is Annual Percentage Rate, accurate as of 01/10/05 and subject to change without notice. Rates and terms determined by the overall creditworthiness of each applicant. Must be a member of SCU or eligible for membership to apply. Rate shown reflects a 1% trade-in reduction for military duty. Deposit and selection of the automatic loan payment feature. Example: \$34,999 for 36 months (36% APR). Offer available on current SCU loans which qualify for refinancing. Not to be combined with other special discounted offers.

NCUA

Environmentalists back Grafenwöhr fence relocation

Residents fearful move might harm wildlife in training area

BY RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany — As plans to build up Grafenwöhr roll along, some residents in the military community have expressed concern about a project to move a fence line that they fear would have a negative impact on wildlife in the training area.

In calls to the 100th Area Support Group and 7th Army Training Command, and a letter written to Stars and Stripes, residents said they were worried about what they believed were plans to put 230 kilometers — about 142 miles — of fence around the training area, trapping wildlife inside.

The plan, however, is not to fence in the training area. Rather, it is to move an already existing fence that separates the training area from the part of the base where people work and live, commonly referred to as the cantonment area.

The fence line is being moved to make way for construction projects under Efficient Basing Grafenwöhr, part of the transformation in Europe that will likely involve closing some bases in Germany and opening new ones in eastern European countries. Grafenwöhr will remain open, and construction projects are planned to build new housing, a post exchange and a commissary among other things.

The portion of the training area affected by moving the fence is about two square kilometers, or roughly one-thousandth of the 62,000-acre training area, according to Dwane Watsck of the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office of the 100th Area Support Group, based in Grafenwöhr.

The fence has been up for many years, and the area that will now become part of the cantonment area was rarely used for training, Watsck said.

"This area was a buffer between the tank trail and the cantonment area," he said, adding that eliminating the buffer area won't cause safety concerns of rounds hitting within the garrison, because the tank trail is a fire-free area and firing is done well inside the training area.

Grafenwöhr's environmental and planning staffs are obligated to consider the protection of the environment and ecosystems in the planning phase of all training and construction projects in the training area, said Manfred Rieck, the 100th ASG's environmental officer.

The training area planners regularly meet with the German federal forestry office to discuss the impact of training on the environment, and the German government must approve all projects within the area, Rieck said.

If any plants or trees are removed for a construction project,



PHOTOS BY RICK EMERT/Stars and Stripes

Manfred Rieck, left, environmental officer for the 100th Area Support Group, shows on a map where a fence line separates Grafenwöhr garrison area from the training area Wednesday at Grafenwöhr. Ulrich Maushakey, forest director for the Federal Forestry Office, Grafenwöhr, holds the map on the right while Franz Zellmann, 409th Base Support Battalion public affairs officer, stands center.

similar plants or trees are planted elsewhere in the training area to make up for it, Rieck said.

Additionally, the environmental office expanded some wetlands in the training area and modified the shore of the bodies of water to make it more attractive to the animals that exist there, Rieck said.

The environmental office works with units that use the training area to identify sections that are off-limits to training to protect endangered or threatened species that live in those areas. In other parts of the training area, the training actually helps wildlife flourish, Rieck said.

"Threatened and endangered species like when the landscape changes," he said. "With tanks moving through, the land changes and animals are attracted to that."

An information paper from the environmental office said the

tanks compact the soil, creating puddles that the endangered yellow-bellied toad uses to lay eggs.

Ulrich Maushakey, the forest director for the Federal Forestry Office in Grafenwöhr, said if the training were to stop and the area no longer monitored, much of the existing wildlife would likely die off.

"If you keep the land open, all the trees come back, the area would be [overgrown] with weeds and the most parasitic species would take over," Maushakey said. "With the land kept free of these threats, there is more of a chance for threatened and endangered species to come back."

Maushakey said forestry workers in the training area have reported spotting bobcats, which had all but disappeared from the area.

Another example of a species making a comeback in the training

area is the beaver, which is endangered throughout Germany, said Ron Biederman, 100th ASG command group plans specialist. Biederman also is an instructor for the 100th ASG hunting program.

Special tunnels were made so that smaller animals such as beavers can pass safely under the tank trails of the training area.

While species such as the beaver and some birds of prey are endangered, other types of wildlife are thriving, Biederman said.

Residents of Grafenwöhr need not be concerned about red deer, roe deer, wild boar and jack rabbits which number in the thousands in the training area and will be unaffected by the moving fence line, he said.

"They've grown up in the training area, they are very used to the training," Biederman said. "They are not bothered by it."

—Rick Emert at emert@smallstripes.osd.mil



A fence line like this, which separates the working and living area of Grafenwöhr, Germany, from its expansive training area, will be moved further into the training area to make way for construction projects related to Efficient Basing Grafenwöhr, the transformation of units and bases in Germany.

More environmental projects at Grafenwöhr

In addition to the project that will move the fence line around the garrison at Grafenwöhr, the 100th Area Support Group and 7th Army Training Command have several ongoing environmental projects for fiscal years 2005 and 2006 to protect wildlife and the environment in training areas at Grafenwöhr and Vilsack, Germany. The projects and estimated costs include:

- Sampling and analyses of ground and surface water,

\$475,000

- Improving storage of water-endangering substances, \$350,000
- Hiring of two pollution prevention managers, \$200,000
- Additional reduction of wastewater flow to the sewage plant at Grafenwöhr, \$350,000
- Construction of rain retention basin for cleaning and retention of low contaminated surface water from maintenance areas at Vilsack, \$380,000.

—Rick Emert

Sailor dies of injuries from sub accident

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — A sailor injured aboard a nuclear submarine that ran aground about 350 miles south of Guam died Sunday, the Navy said. Twenty-three other crewmembers were being treated for injuries.

The USS San Francisco was headed back to its home port in Guam after sustaining severe damage on Saturday. The incident was under investigation, said Jon Yoshishige, a spokesman for the Pacific Fleet based at Pearl Harbor.

The name of the sailor who died was

being withheld pending a mandatory 24-hour waiting period, the Navy said. The sailor's next of kin had been notified.

There were no reports of damage to the 360-foot submarine's reactor plant, which was operating normally, the Navy said. Officials said there was no information on what the submarine struck.

The extent of the damage would not be known until the vessel arrived at Guam on Monday, Yoshishige said.

Navy and Coast Guard aircraft from Guam were sent to monitor the submarine and assist if needed, the Navy said. Officials said the sub has a crew of 137.



Jenni Fogle, left, founder and president of the Naples Toastmasters Club at Naval Support Activity, Naples, Italy, talks with members Van Reeves, center, and Steve McKechnie at a recent meeting. Fogle, a pilot with Flight International, started the club to meet new people and improve her public speaking skills.

SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

Busy pilot launches endeavor in public speaking

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy

Gumption could be Jenni Fogle's nickname.

When she's not at one of her two jobs — flying dignitaries around Europe and putting other people's lives in order — she's busy launching the Naples chapter of Toastmasters International.

Just for kicks.

Well, that and to meet "new and fascinating people," said the 37-year-old pilot/life counselor/group president.

Fogle likes working with people. She flies dignitaries, admirals and other VIPs in a Learjet for her job as a pilot with Flight International, which is contracted by the Navy to ferry U.S. and NATO military and civilian big-wigs throughout Europe from the Capodichino base in Naples.

When she's not doing that, she's running a part-time business as a "life coach."

"You know, like someone who wants to improve as an athlete hires an athletic coach, I'm the person they hire to help improve their life, to set goals, to prioritize things," Fogle said.

"Who doesn't need more time



Jenni Fogle

Fogle is a go-getter who is trying to get a chapter of Toastmasters International off the

ground in Naples, Italy.

Job: Pilot with Flight International

Age: 37

Family: Single, with Italian boyfriend

Military service: Major in the Air Force Reserve

Hometown: Phoenix

Stars and Stripes

and less stress?" she asked, laughing.

The desire to ease the stress of public speaking is what led Fogle to organize the Naples Toastmasters Club, which she began in October. She sought members by putting up fliers, placing ads in the Naval Support Activity Naples base newspaper, and spread-

ing the news by word-of-mouth.

She netted nine initial participants, a number that fluctuates as members face other commitments. In order to be recognized as an official chapter by Toastmasters International, the group needs a minimum of 20 members.

Patience, persistence and perseverance are what it will take to reach the goal, she says.

Toastmasters International was started in California in 1924 by a group of men looking to get "practice and training in the art of public speaking and in presiding over meetings, and to promote sociability and good fellowship among its members," according to the group's Web site, www.toastmasters.org. Members work on various speech projects to build skills in areas from breaking the ice at gatherings to learning how gestures can communicate meaning.

Today there are nearly 10,000 clubs with nearly 200,000 members in about 90 countries. There are about 43 military-sponsored clubs around the world, a number that has remained fairly steady during the past couple of years, according to Toastmasters International spokeswoman Kelly Murphy.

Soon that number may include Naples. And that would suit member Van Reeves just fine.

As the deputy comptroller for the Naval Computer Telecommunication Area Master Station, he at times has to deliver budgetary speeches to large groups. That makes him nervous.

"The club helps me build my oral communication skills and gain confidence in speaking before a crowd," he said. He spoke without interjecting any of those awkward "ahs" or "ums" that fello Toastmasters who gather for the weekly Tuesday meetings would be sure to count and point out — all done as constructive criticism, Fogle says.

Why, they'd never poke fun, she insisted, even though laughter is not only allowed, but encouraged, at meetings. Especially if members guffaw at the designated joke of the meeting.

During one recent meeting, it was Fogle's turn to deliver that joke.

She was well-prepared, both in delivery and content. Her joke

went like this:

So, there are twin brothers, identical in every way but personality. One's a pessimist, the other an optimist. On Christmas Eve,

the father gives new toys to the pessimist, hoping to improve the boy's attitude. The other gets a huge pile of manure slopped on the bedroom floor.

The next morning, the pessimist is no happier than before. But the optimist is happily digging through his pile.

When asked what he was doing and why he was so happy, the boy replied: "With all this poop, there must be a pony in

here somewhere."

Yes, her audience chuckled, at the content and because of her delivery, which they said was exquisite and error-free.

It was another success for the pilot who is trying to get a new project off the ground.

E-mail: Sandra.Jontz@starsandstripes.osd.mil

JRTC general seeks advice from bases in Afghanistan

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

TARIN KOWT, Afghanistan — In time and distance, landscape and resistance, Louisiana is worlds away from the birthplace of the Taliban.

"We live in the wild, wild west," Army Maj. Erik Sevigny said to Brig. Gen. Michael Barbero in summing up daily life at the forward operating base at Tarin Kowt in southeastern Afghanistan.

Normally, Barbero labors in at Fort Polk in Louisiana. But for the past week, the head of the U.S. Army's Joint Readiness Training Center has been touring Afghanistan, essentially to update the Army's play-book.

Armed with new tactics and lessons learned, Barbero and his instructors plan to adjust the training regimen units go through in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan.

"It only makes sense," said Lt. Col. Todd Miller, the operations officer for Combined Task Force Bronco, which is headquartered in Kandahar. "You try to replicate the environment as best as possible."

That's somewhat easier said than done, given that Louisiana and Afghanistan have about as much in common as the revelers on Bourbon Street do with the Taliban and its spiritual leader, Mullah Omar. But soldiers are an adaptable lot and efforts such as Barbero's go a long way toward better preparing them for deployment.

Whatever adjustments the JRTC makes based on this tour will be incorporated into the next training session for Afghanistan, Barbero said.

The frontline commanders Barbero visited by helicopter were all deadlier serious as one after another sat down with him to offer their perspectives. Stars and Stripes was invited along, providing that

no sensitive material, such as intelligence-gathering procedures and future operations, be released.

At main forward operating bases, like Ripley near Tarin Kowt, the setting was comfortable and coffee was served. At remote locations, such as a place named Sweeney near the Pakistani border, conditions were more austere.

One of the men Barbero spoke with was Capt. Mike Berdy, a company commander with 2nd Battalion, 35th Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. Berdy's base camp, which is shared with a team of U.S. Special Forces, is in the Shinkaj Mountains at an altitude of 6,658 feet. The air is cold, the ground is frozen and snow blankets the ground.

"These guys are smart," Berdy said of the enemy, Taliban and foreign fighters "don't travel with their weapons. They use cache systems," he added.

In case after case, he said, the enemy, even if vastly outnumbered, "won't hesitate to engage us."

"What will turn it green?" Barbero asked, referring to a level of safety.

"Obviously, the [Afghan National Army]," Berdy answered. "There's got to be a plan for them."

And there is, according to Col. Richard Pedersen, the U.S. Army regional commander in southeastern Afghanistan. Pedersen, who accompanied Barbero on his rounds Saturday and Sunday, said more ANA soldiers would be joining U.S. forces in the coming months. He told Berdy that if he could find room for some of them on the compound, they would go there.

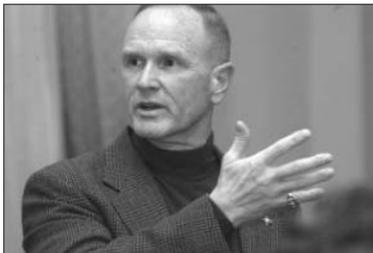
Berdy and other commanders like him, such as Capt. Josh Bookout of the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 5th Regiment, which patrols an area that includes Mullah Omar's birthplace near the village of Deh Rawod, believe they are gradually winning over many of the locals.

"They are starting to trust us and to work with us," Pedersen said.

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: doughertyk@mail.estripes.osd.mil



Barbero



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. Major John M. Mersino, senior enlisted advisor for the U.S. European Command, gets a little leary Saturday during his farewell dinner at Patch Barracks in Stuttgart, Germany, as he talks about the wounded troops he's visited.

EUCOM's top enlisted delivers parting remarks

BY CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — When asked what touched him the most about his job, Marine Sgt. Major John M. Mersino said it was the young troops.

The senior enlisted advisor for the U.S. European Command compared them to the revered "greatest generation" of World War II.

"I don't think America is watching the generation that is growing up right under their noses," said Mersino, 51. "They're a lot like that generation in my judgment — they go the extra mile and are mature beyond their years."

"We're asking them to do a whole lot more than we have a right to ask them to do, and they welcome the challenge."

Mersino was honored at a dinner Saturday night as he enters his final days as EUCOM's command sergeant major.

There will be a few more fetes in his honor before the farm boy from Michigan retires after 32 years in the corps. Saturday's event at the Swabian Inn on Patch Barracks was for his enlisted colleagues, who toasted him as a compassionate patriot and motivator.

A slide show showed Mersino mingling with Iraqi children and visiting hospitalized troops.

"To a person," Mersino said of the wounded, "they've said, 'When can I get better?' and 'When can I get back to my unit and get back in the fight?'"

After the slide show, Mersino strolled among the approximately 120 guests, weaving between the white linen-covered dinner tables as he made his parting remarks, picking out people by name, extolling the troops while taking gentle jabs at the brass.

"I've never seen a general pull a trigger," he said. "Never seen a colonel pull one, either."

As the top enlisted troop in the European command, which in-

cludes every U.S. Marine, airman, soldier and sailor in Europe, most of Africa and Russia, Mersino's job ranged from advocating for the most junior servicemember to advising four-star generals.

"The effect he has on my troops is just so profound," said 1st Lt. Frank Small of the 1st Battalion, 214th Aviation, one of the few officers in Saturday's crowd. Small often flew Mersino by helicopter to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center to visit the wounded.

"He has a personal touch. To every single one of my soldiers he showed genuine care and concern. That's a rarity. One of my guys doesn't want to be an officer anymore; he wants to be a sergeant major," Small said.

"No matter who he comes in contact with, he just has a way of making that person feel comfortable," said Gunnery Sgt. Juan Allen of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe.

"He reaches out to the families as well," added Allen's wife, Angela.

EUCOM's next senior enlisted officer could be announced by the end of the month. Candidates are nominated by the top enlisted members of the four service branches: chief master sergeant of the Air Force, the master chief petty officer of the Navy, and sergeants major of the Army and Marine Corps.

The nominees will be reviewed by EUCOM's deputy commander, Air Force Gen. Charles Wald, who will then make his recommendation to EUCOM commander Marine Gen. James L. Jones, who will make the selection.

Mersino said he planned to take a civilian job in Europe after he retires.

"I'm yesterday's news," he told the crowd, motivating to the very end. "Everyone in this room is tomorrow's headline."

E-mail Charlie Coon at: coon@mail.estripes.osd.mil



University of Maryland University College Europe



Check out UMUC-Europe's Term 3 schedule of classes:

www.ed.umuc.edu

Find your undergraduate, graduate, or distance education class schedule using the online searchable schedule link.

Contact us at DSN 370-6762, CIV +49-(0)6221-3780, e-mail edstudent_svc@ed.umuc.edu, or visit your UMUC-Europe field representative.

Military regrets loss of 'possibly innocent lives'

Strike on wrong house south of Mosul killed at least 5 Iraqis, statement says

BY BASSEM MROUE
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The U.S. military acknowledged five people were killed when it bombed the wrong house during a search operation in northern Iraq. An American troops opened fire after their convoy was struck by a roadside bomb at a checkpoint south of Baghdad, killing at least two policemen and three civilians, police said Sunday.

South of Mosul, the owner of the house that was struck, Ali Yousef, said 14 people were killed when the 500-pound GPS-guided bomb hit at about 2 a.m. Saturday in the town of Aitha, 30 miles south of Mosul.

The U.S. military later released a statement saying it regretted the loss of "possibly innocent lives" in the strike, which occurred as U.S.

ground troops searched for "an anti-Iraqi force cell leader."

South of Baghdad, U.S. officials said they had no information about the shooting at the checkpoint, which occurred overnight Saturday. Interior Ministry spokesman Col. Adnan Abdul-Rahman said a U.S. convoy was hit by a roadside bomb near a police checkpoint in Yussifiyah, nine miles south of Baghdad, and troops opened fire, killing two police and three civilians.

Dr. Ammar Abdul-Hadi of the al-Yarmouk hospital said eight people were killed in the attack and 12 were wounded.

On Sunday, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell was asked on ABC's "This Week" how he would define success in Iraq's election, and acknowledged concern about what will happen after the vote.

The attacks came at an extreme-



An Iraqi volunteer in Baghdad prepares candidates' posters and fliers for distribution in provinces on Sunday.

ly delicate time, with Iraq reeled by violence just three weeks before elections for a national assembly. The United States has insisted that the vote go ahead on Jan. 30.

"Success is putting in place a government that is really elected

and represents all of the people of Iraq — and creating an Iraqi security force that is able to protect the country and protect the people of Iraq," he said in the interview.

Meanwhile, Iraq's most influen-

tial Sunni group will abandon its call for a boycott of Jan. 30 elections if the United States gives a timetable for withdrawing multinational forces, a spokesman for the group said Sunday.

Members of the powerful Association of Muslim Scholars relayed their request to a senior U.S. embassy official at a meeting Saturday, the Sunni official said on condition of anonymity.

The meeting was confirmed Saturday by U.S. Embassy spokesman Bob Callahan, who said an unnamed senior embassy official in Iraq met with leading association members in an effort to persuade them to participate in the landmark election for a constitutional assembly.

In an apparent accident, seven Ukrainians and one Kazakh serving with the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq were killed Sunday in an explosion while loading bombs that could be used by warplanes, officials said.

Lt. Col. Artur Domanski, a Polish military spokesman in Iraq, said the explosion occurred at about noon at an ammunition dump about 6 miles south of Salwaira. He said 11 soldiers were wounded — four Kazakhs and seven Ukrainians.

Few details about the deaths of the Ukrainians and Kazakh were known. Domanski said an investigation had been launched and the cause wasn't clear. Ukraine's Defense Ministry said soldiers were loading aviation bombs when one of the devices exploded.

Also Sunday, a U.S. soldier assigned to the Task Force Baghdad was killed in a roadside bomb explosion, the military said, although it did not say where the attack occurred.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Saturday, at least 1,351 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,056 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is nine higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Friday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,213 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 947 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A U.S. soldier was killed Friday in a nonhostile vehicle accident in Anbar province.

The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department:

■ Army Pfc. Kenneth G. Vonroun, 20, Bloomingburg, N.Y., died Thursday in Baghdad when an explosive struck his vehicle, assigned to the National Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, 42nd Infantry Division, New York.

Blair: U.S., Britain to assess Iraq security jointly

The Associated Press

LONDON — Britain and the United States will send a team to Iraq to reassess security in the face of spiraling violence, Prime Minister Tony Blair said in a televised interview Sunday.

"In the key area around Baghdad there is no doubt about it at all, we have got to deal these people a blow," Blair told British Broadcasting Corp.

"What President Bush and myself have agreed is that we are sending a team there just to review the situation because the key thing there is to build the capability of the Iraqi security force-

es themselves."

Blair has been roiled by violence just three weeks before elections for a national assembly.

"Around Baghdad there is no doubt about it at all, we have got to deal these people a blow."

Tony Blair
British prime minister

with about 100 people — mostly Iraq security forces — being killed in the past week. The United States has insisted that the vote go ahead Jan. 30.

Iraq's insurgents repeatedly

have targeted police and security forces, which tend to be poorly armed and less trained than their American counterparts, resulting in higher casualty counts.

No one was immediately available at the Ministry of Defense to comment on Blair's announcement.

Blair also said it was important that Iraqi elections scheduled for Jan. 30 go ahead as planned despite the violence.

On Saturday, The Sunday Telegraph reported the British government is expected to announce this week that it will send an extra 650 soldiers to Iraq to bolster security ahead of Jan. 30 elections.

 EUROLENS CONTACT LENSES	EVERYDAY LOW PRICES FROM EUROLENS CONTACT LENSES!
	Order any four items from Eurolens and receive a 10% discount
	Contact lenses by mail— FREE shipping to European addresses
Germany 0800 1822593 UK 0800 897275 Italy 800 015480 Holland 0800 0221447 Spain 9009 93967 Belgium 0800 73195	
www.eurolenscontactlenses.com	

	Factory direct sales of high quality HEYM Rifles, Double Guns, and Combination Guns, for U.S. ID Card holders with valid German Hunting License and/or German Waffenbesitzkarte.

Prices starting at 999,- € for a slide action HEYM Rifle.

Please contact Christian Pfeil at 036875-63326 for more information or to schedule a factory tour with the option to purchase a HEYM Firearm directly.

We also offer scopes and mounts for your HEYM firearm.
Please bring your VAT form.

Visit our website for information on our product range.

(please contact your local FPO and MP Customs for current regulations concerning the purchase and transportation of firearms by U.S. ID Card holders in Germany prior to making a firearm purchase)

Celebrate the NEW YEAR...

Pentagon Car Sales

...GERMANY

KAISERSLAUTERN

Kaiserstrasse 1
67661 Kaiserslautern
Tel: 0631 351 900

HEIDELBERG

Heidelstrasse 3
69115 Heidelberg
Tel: 06221 144 911

MANNHEIM

Waldeckweg 3
68309 Mannheim
Tel: 0621 724 6901

WIESBADEN / MAINZ

Ludwig-Wolker-Str. 14
55252 Mainz-Kastel
Tel: 06134 567 800

...ITALY

AVIANO

Via Pardonone 48D
Aviano (PN) 33081
Tel: 0434 676 613/4

VICENZA

Viale Della Pace 254B
Vicenza (VI) 36100
Tel: 0444 305 888

NAPLES

Via Eduardo Scarfoglio, 7/f
80125 Naples
Tel: 081 762 3868

SIGONELLA

c/o Hotel Sigonella Inn
Suite 101/102 opposite NAS 1
95040 Motta S. Anastasia (CT)
Tel: 095 713 0410

LA MADDALENA

Piazza Bambin Gesù '11
07024 La Maddalena (SS)
Tel: 0789 723 026

...SPAIN

ROTA

Plaza Del Triunfo 6
11520 Rota (Cadiz)
Tel: 956 841 678



...with a new SAAB!

Custom order your new car at factory direct
prices through the Military-Sales Program at
Pentagon Car Sales...



...Visit us for details of all the special offers
currently available on the SAAB model range...

Pentagon  Car Sales

Drive Into Your Dreams

... be connected!

www.PentagonCarSales.com

Sales@PentagonCarSales.com

Less hot spots flare, focus to stay on Iraq

DO to keep eye on North Korea, Iran and other troubled areas

BY PAULINE JELINEK
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The military will have plenty to do in the four years of a second Bush administration. While the war in Iraq figures to dominate all else, as it has the past two years, other potential hot spots could demand attention.

And overshadowing all will be the questions of whether the military has enough troops — and money — to do everything the administration has planned.

"Conventional wisdom says that most of our assets are going to be involved in Iraq," said Peter Brookes, an assistant defense secretary for Asia at the start of President Bush's first term.

"But you're just not sure what sort of things are going to develop ... flare up," the Heritage Foundation analyst said, wondering about the possibility of issues arising with China, Taiwan and North Korea.

Consider the tsunami in Asia. The Pentagon is devoting more than 13,000 troops, an aircraft carrier and dozens of aircraft to humanitarian relief.

As for new combat operations, the seeds of possible military conflict have been germinating for some time in Iraq, Syria, Pakistan and elsewhere, analysts said.

Right now, some 150,000 American troops are trying to stabilize an increasingly violent Iraq, with no time table for when they can leave.

"At the Pentagon, policy-makers are utterly absorbed with Iraq," said analyst Loren Thompson of the Lexington Institute.

The military also must anticipate and plan for increased



U.S. Marines walk during a patrol late last month in Ramadi, Iraq. With about 150,000 servicemembers currently in Iraq, some wonder if the U.S. military has enough troops to do everything the Bush administration has planned.

China-Taiwan tensions, troubled diplomatic efforts to halt suspected Iranian and North Korean nuclear programs, and the struggles by Pakistan's president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, to hold his nation together while he allies himself with U.S. counterterror efforts in the face of violent disapproval from domestic Islamic fundamentalists.

Massive tasks that can't be finished but on which defense officials need to make headway in the next four years include the transformation of the military and its weapons systems toward a more modern force, the moving and closing of some overseas bases, and another round of closings of domestic military bases.

"What happens is that they have all these things on their plate ... things being nudged along like a peanut with your nose, and then there's a fire you have to put out," Brookes said.

Defense officials are trying to figure out how to offset the unexpectedly high cost of the campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Among cost-saving ideas being discussed are retiring one of the Navy's 12 aircraft carriers and reducing the Air Force's purchase of F-22 stealth fighters, officials say.

But it could cost an additional \$3 billion a year to expand the 512,000-strong Army by 30,000 soldiers, something a senior Army official last week said they may have to do. The Army has the authority to add the soldiers but arranged for it to be only a temporary boost because it did not want a long-term commitment to the cost of a larger force.

The fact that the military is severely stretched restrains those who might be tempted to use force in new places, Thompson said.

"Inner counsels at the White

House — people like Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld — would very much like to do something about troublemakers like Iran and Syria, but in order to act on that impulse they would need a much larger" force, he said.

"We are not going to be looking for any wars of choice, that's for sure." The Brookings Institution's Michael O'Hanlon said.

"But if some of these things happen," he said of any flare-up surrounding Korea, Pakistan, Iran or Taiwan, "we won't have a choice."

Without new provocations, analysts see little chance the administration would use force against North Korea. In Iran, by contrast, some think it somewhat more possible that there could be U.S. or Israeli action.

On the issue of realigning U.S. forces around the world, Bush says he plans to move back to the

What's in store

FRONT AND CENTER: The U.S. military likely will remain sharply focused on Iraq during the second Bush administration, but other troubled regions could demand attention.

HOT SPOTS: Tensions continue to simmer between the United States and Iran, Syria and North Korea. Relations between China and Taiwan also bear watching.

CHANGING MILITARY: Plans to reshape the military, from troop strength to closing bases and realigning troop deployment, may have to take a back seat.

— The Associated Press

states up to 70,000 uniformed personnel and 100,000 dependents, part of a worldwide plan to break down large Cold War-era bases and move smaller numbers of troops to places where they can more quickly respond to flare-ups.

That effort can either be complicated or hastened by the continued deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, analysts said.

"Any time you have a plan, you have to overlay with reality," said Brookes, noting that the two campaigns could require much of the military to stay in the Middle East region. "Right now you may need the bases in Germany that you had hoped to close ... this may have to be put off."

"Also, the current administration's rebasing plan, like the rest of its defense program, has partly become captive to the hope that the missions in Afghanistan and Iraq are temporary," American Enterprise Institute analyst Thomas Donnelly wrote in a recent paper.

O'Hanlon disagreed, saying a plan to decrease troops in South Korea over the longrun, for instance, might be made easier by Iraq's needs. Troops sent from Korea this year to help temporarily in Iraq may never be built back up in Korea, he said.

GI gets 6 months in drowning case

BY ANGELA K. BROWN
The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — An Army platoon sergeant who ordered his soldiers to throw Iraqis into the Tigris River was sentenced Saturday to six months in military prison, but will not be discharged.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Perkins was convicted Friday of two counts of aggravated assault, assault consummated by battery and obstruction of justice. He was acquitted of involuntary manslaughter and making a false statement.

He did not testify during his trial, but before he was sentenced Saturday told the jury of Army officers and enlisted members that his actions were wrong — although he did not apologize to the Iraqis. He said he still loved the

military and did not want to lose his job. "If I had to go back, I would definitely do something different on these days," Perkins said, wiping away tears.

Perkins, 33, and another soldier were accused of ordering soldiers to push two Iraqis into the river in Samarra in January 2004. Prosecutors say Zaidoun Hassoun, 19, drowned and his cousin, Marwan Hassoun, climbed out the river. Defense attorneys contended Zaidoun may still be alive, but say if he is dead it was not at the hands of U.S. soldiers.

The six-man military jury — which decided against the manslaughter conviction — also reduced Perkins' rank by one grade to staff sergeant. Jurors considered a sentencing range of no punishment to a dishonorable discharge, rank reduction and 11½ years in prison.



Rhein BMW presents
Valentine's Day Greetings
Brought to you by Stars and Stripes

A love to show you your care. Surprise them
with a Valentine's Day Greeting!

Messages in the Mid-East edition begin at no charge
Messages in the European edition start at \$29

*Five lucky winners, chosen at random will receive an official
BMW-Williams Formula One Team Jacket

Visit www.strips.com. Click on the link for Valentine's Day

Greetings publish in Stars and Stripes on February 14!

Messages for the Mid-East edition will also publish on

www.strips.com beginning 11 Feb

Deadline for messages 27 Jan 05, Drawing on 14 Feb 05

*No purchase necessary to win.

IN THE STATES

Storms keep pounding Calif., trap motorists

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — More heavy rain spread across parts of California on Sunday and snow piled deeper in the mountains as the state sat under a storm system that already had snowbound motorists, caused flooding and even slowed trains.

The latest in a series of storms was blamed for at least four weekend deaths in Southern California, including a homeless man killed Sunday by a landslide. Along the storms' eastward track, two people were killed Saturday by separate avalanches in Utah, authorities said.

Heavy snow across the Sierra Nevada stranded an Amtrak train, shut down the Reno, Nev., airport for the second time in a week and halted motorists over the mountains. Winter storm warnings were in effect with as much as 5 feet of new snow possible by Tuesday morning on top of Saturday's accumulations of up to 4.5 feet.

Up to 6 inches of rain was expected Sunday in Southern California with at least 2 feet of snow possible in the region's higher mountains. Residents of a mobile home park in Santa Clarita, northwest of Los Angeles, were evacuated after a retaining wall ruptured and 5 feet of water flowed in from a creek.

Authorities weren't immediately sure how many people were evacuated.

"An 8-foot masonry wall that was protecting the structures gave way and water is rushing into all the houses," said Inspector

Sierra Nevada may get 5 feet of snow



A snowbound Union Pacific freight train gets assistance Saturday in Truckee, Calif., as consecutive snowstorms hit the Sierra Nevada range.

John Mancha.

Dozens of Sunday church services and all weekend high school sports events were canceled around Reno, Nev., because the area got 18 inches of snow. The region was still digging out from a Dec. 30 storm that

dumped as much as 9 feet of snow in the Sierra and 4 feet in the Reno area.

"A combination of two storms of this magnitude hasn't occurred in the city of Reno since 1916," National Weather Service forecaster Shane Snyder said.

Major highways across the Sierra between Reno and Sacramento, Calif., were closed for part of Saturday and the heavy snowfall also delayed Amtrak trains through the mountains.

"There was just too much snow on the tracks," said Amtrak spokesman Markagliari.

Flash flood warnings were posted throughout Southern California and authorities kept close eye on foothill neighborhoods below the San Bernardino Mountains where slopes burned bare by wildfires were especially prone to mudslides.

Two traffic deaths were blamed on wet pavement on Saturday and one man died when he tried to cross a swollen stream in Ventura County, police reported.

The storms have been caused by cold low pressure off Oregon's coast colliding with a stream of moist air from the southern Pacific known as a "Pineapple Express," said forecaster Ted Mackechnie of the National Weather Service.

"These are pretty rare events and when they hit, they hit hard," Mackechnie said. "It's very dangerous."

On Saturday, up to 4 feet of snow stalled motorists in their cars along a 5-mile stretch of highway between the Snow Valley ski resort and the Big Bear dam in the San Bernardino Mountains about 90 miles east of Los Angeles. Rescue crews had to use tracked vehicles to rescue people.

Elsewhere, flooding along the Ohio River had chased hundreds of Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky residents from their homes.

Message for our men and women in uniform...

WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

From coast to coast, thousands of Americans are grateful for what you do and want to show you that they care. To see the actions and messages of support from these groups and individuals from all across America, visit www.stripes.com.

This is just a small token of appreciation, a way to say...



Thousands of Americans are proud of you. Show your appreciation. Visit www.stripes.com to see the actions and messages of support from these groups and individuals from all across America.

Click the button to see the messages of support and to submit your own thank you notes as well!

It's Birthday! We're happy to share the message of support from all across America. Visit www.stripes.com to see the actions and messages of support from these groups and individuals from all across America.

Please visit the site at www.stripes.com and click on the America Supports You button to view the messages of support and to submit your own thank you notes as well!

STARS & STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper



U.N. audits bare lapses in oil-for-food program

BY DESMOND BUTLER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Internal audits conducted by the United Nations of its oil-for-food program revealed lapses in U.N. oversight that allowed contractors to overcharge by hundreds of thousands of dollars, according to copies obtained by The Associated Press.

Two of the audits examined irregularities including overcharging by two companies that were hired to monitor oil sales and the import of humanitarian goods under the program. Another detailed financial mismanagement by a U.N. agent administering humanitarian aid under the program.

An independent panel led by former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, who was ap-

pointed in April by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to investigate corruption at the oil-for-food program, was set to release 400 pages of the audits on Monday.

But the panel distributed the documents to congressional investigators two days early. A congressional aide provided the AP with copies of three of the 56 audits, including one that found that the United Nations was billed over several years for 31 days of work in June, which only has 30 days.

The \$60 billion oil-for-food program was created as a humanitarian exemption to sanctions imposed on Iraq after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, which led to the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Beginning in 1996, it allowed Saddam Hussein's government to sell oil and use the proceeds to buy food, medicine and other items.

The series of audits, which were carried out from 1996 to 2003 by the U.N. watchdog, the Office of Internal Oversight Services, have been a source of contention between the United Nations and members of Congress examining allegations of corruption in the program.

The United Nations had refused to release them while Volcker's panel conducted its investigation, although the world body passed a resolution in December making OIOS reports available to member states who request them.

Though the audits illustrate negligent U.N. management of contracts, a U.N. spokesman said that they also show that the United Nations was monitoring itself during the course of the oil-for-food program.

The audits of the two compa-

nies hired by the United Nations reveal "overpayments, a total lack of U.N. verification of contractor duties performed, and no-bid procedures for additional contracts and extensions," a spokesman for the House International Relations Committee said.

It was unclear what steps the United Nations took to correct the mismanagement uncovered in the reports and to demand reporting from the companies recommended by the auditors.

One audit dated July 3, 2002, examined contracts with Saybolt International by a Dutch company that was hired to monitor oil exports from Iraq under the humanitarian program. The report detailed billing by the company exceeding \$2 million.

The company inflated invoices, charged for accommodation of

workers provided by the Iraqi government and exaggerated staffing and other expenses. For example, the report found that the United Nations was billed several years for 31 days of work in June, which only has 30 days.

Another report from July 21, 1999, detailed possible overpayments of more than \$3 million to London-based Lloyd's Register Inspection Ltd., which was hired to inspect and monitor humanitarian goods as they were imported into Iraq. The audit noted that the company billed the United Nations for agents deployed in December 1996, two months before the first contracts for the import of humanitarian supplies were issued. "The contractor without consultation took the decision to deploy all the agents," the report states, costing the United Nations an estimated \$1.97 million.

Conservative columnist dropped after he got \$240,000 from Education Dept.

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — A conservative columnist has been dropped by a major syndication service because he accepted a payment from the Bush administration to promote the No Child Left Behind law to fellow blacks and to give the education secretary media time.

Armstrong Williams, one of the nation's leading black conservative voices, has acknowledged that a company he runs was paid \$240,000 by the Education Department, and he called criticism of his relationship with the department "legitimate."

Tribune Media Services said it told Williams on Friday that it was halting distribution of his weekly newspaper column.

The company, a subsidiary of the Tribune Co., said it accepted his explanation that the payment was for advertising on his radio and television programs.

"Nevertheless, accepting compensation in any form from an entity that serves as a subject of his weekly newspaper columns creates, at the very least, the appearance of a conflict of interest. Under these circumstances, readers may well ask themselves if the views expressed in his columns are his own or whether they have been purchased by a third party," a statement said.

Williams also hosts a radio show that appears regularly on CNN as a commentator. CNN said it would evaluate the situation, pointing out that Williams has no formal contract with the network.

A contract required Williams' company, the Graham Williams Group, to produce radio and TV spots featuring one-minute "reads" by Education Secretary Rod Paige and to allow Paige and other department officials to appear as studio guests with Williams.

Williams also was to use his influence with other black journalists to get them to discuss No Child Left Behind, a centerpiece of President Bush's domestic agenda, which aims to raise achievement among poor and minority children and penalizes many schools that don't make progress.

The National Association of Black Journalists expressed disappointment in Williams, who is not a member of the group.

"I thought we in the media were supposed to be watchdogs, not lapdogs," said NABJ Vice President-Print Bryan Monroe. "I thought we had an administration headed by a president who took an oath to uphold the First Amendment, not try to rent it," said Monroe, who also is assistant vice president at Knight Ridder.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said Friday that the decisions on the contract were made by the Education Department.

The Education Department defended its decision as a "permissible use of taxpayer funds under legal government contracting procedures." The point was to help

parents, particularly in poor and minority communities, understand the benefits of the law, the department said.

The radio show "The Right Side," which Williams both hosts and owns, is carried by the Lynchburg, Va.-based Liberty Channel, which is affiliated with the Rev. Jerry Falwell, by Sky Angel satellite network, a Christian organization, and by Hunt Valley, Md.-based Sinclair Broadcast Group of Hunt Valley, Md.

Messages seeking comment were left Saturday from the Liberty Channel, TV One and Sinclair, but there was no immediate response.

His other show, "On Point" where Williams interviewed Paige last year is carried by TV One, a Silver Spring, Md.-based network aimed at African Americans. The Washington Post quoted Williams as saying he had disclosed his contract to TV One, but said chief executive Johnathon Rodgers told the newspaper the network knew nothing about it and "asked the show off the air while it investigates."

Williams said the criticism was "legitimate."

"Even though I'm not a journalist — I'm a commentator — I feel I should be held to the media ethics standard," he said.

Information about the contract with Williams was first reported by USA Today, and Williams' Web site, www.armstrongwilliams.com, carried the text of the newspaper's article.

Troops returning to Iraq



Two of the 19,000 troops stationed at Fort Stewart, Ga., and part of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, wait to board a chartered airplane Saturday at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Ga., to deploy to Iraq. The division, which helped lead the charge to Baghdad, is the first Army division tapped to return to Iraq since the March 2003 invasion.

Pentagon Car Sales salutes the men and women of the US Armed Forces serving in Iraq. Our thoughts and prayers are with you for a speedy and safe return to home and family. May God bless you and the United States of America

We would like to show our support by sponsoring Free Stars & Stripes newspapers for Operation Iraqi Freedom service members. Available at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center & the General Von Steuben Hotel, Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

Pentagon Car Sales

Advocates irked by rape treatment guidelines

BY DAVID CRARY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Scores of advocacy groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union and Planned Parenthood, assailed new Justice Department guidelines for treating rape victims Thursday because the detailed procedures make no mention of emergency contraception as an option that could spare some women an unwanted pregnancy.

Justice Dept. paper leaves out 'morning-after pill'

The result is "a glaring omission in an otherwise thorough document," the groups said in a letter sent to Diane Stuart, director of the Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women.

Gloria Feldt, president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, called the omission "a blatant example of politics taking

precedence over the emotional and physical health needs of women."

Her organization, and other groups, contend that information about emergency contraception was included in an early draft of the guidelines, then removed from the final version because of political concerns.

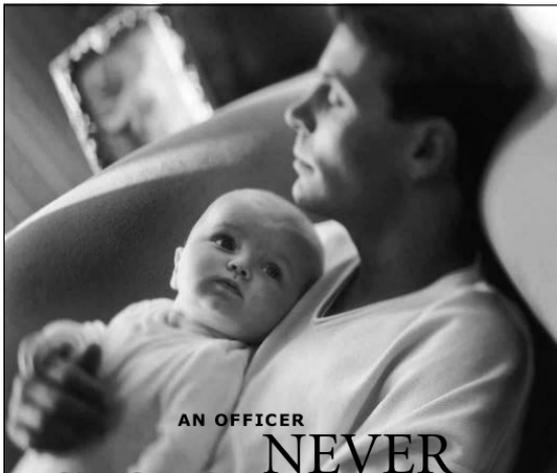
A Justice Department spokes-

man, Eric Holland, said Stuart's office had received the protest letter and would "review its contents carefully." The department offered no immediate comment on the specifics of the complaints.

Many major medical groups support the use of emergency contraception, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecol-

ogists recommends that it be offered to all sexual assault victims who are at risk of pregnancy. But many conservative groups contend that use of emergency contraception can be a form of abortion in cases where fertilization has already occurred.

Commonly known as morning-after pills, emergency contraceptives are a stronger dose of regular birth control pills. They are considered highly effective up to 72 hours after unprotected sex.



AN OFFICER

NEVER

STOPS SERVING.

AND NEITHER DO WE.

You lead two lives. And each one demands 100% from you. So you need someone fighting for you on the issues that count — pay, health insurance, benefits. Rest easy. MOAA has been championing the interests of officers and their families for 75 years.

MOAA fights for you in Washington and provides a host of vital resources and benefits that serve the needs of officers and their families. But to remain strong, we need the support of every officer. Why not add your voice to MOAA? Sign up now for the special introductory price of only \$12.

Join now. Call (800) 234-6622 or visit www.joinmoaa.org.



WWW.JOINMOAA.ORG



State Sen. Chuck Wiger, left, Rep. Jerry Dempsey, center, and House Majority Leader Erik Paulsen, right, enjoy a laugh during a conference of state legislators Thursday in Minneapolis where Democrat and Republican lawmakers gathered for a workshop teaching them how to get along. Paulsen and Dempsey are Republicans and Wiger is a Democrat.

Lawmakers learn to bypass bickering

BY PATRICK CONDON
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota legislators, plagued by enough drama and disagreement for a season's worth of plot lines on a reality TV series, decided they needed group therapy.

About 75 senators and representatives voluntarily attended a workshop, "Beyond Bickering and Gridlock," that hoped to answer a question that plagues state lawmakers across the country and members of Congress alike: "Can't we all just get along?"

It's an important question as the 2005 session gets under way. Last year's session, which crashed and burned after a partisan stalemate, produced few accomplishments but plenty of raw feelings and grudges.

That lack of results is seen as a major factor in Democrats picking up 13 House seats formerly held by Republicans. Since then, lawmakers have been giving major lip service to the need for bipartisanship.

"Compromise is not a four-letter word," said Sen. Sheila Kiskaden, the Legislature's only Independence Party member and the workshop's originator. "All the good ideas don't come from Democrats, and all the good ideas don't come from Republicans. The best ideas come from talking to each other."

Minnesota lawmakers aren't alone in their angst. Political veterans from both major parties and from Congress on down have complained for several years that legislative bodies have lost any sense of collegiality, collaboration or consensus across party lines.

It's likely aggravated by the razor-thin balance of power between Democrats and Republicans nationwide. Minnesota's legislature has 101 Democrats and 99 Republicans; nationwide, there are 3,650 Democratic state legislators and 3,656 Republican state legislators.

"We see that around the country — the more the parties are competitive with one another, the more likely one is going to see this lack of civility break out," said David Schultz, a political science professor at Hamline University in St. Paul.

Officials from the National Conference of State Legislatures, which helped with the workshop, said similar exercises are becoming popular in other states as well.

"Every legislature's issues are a little different," said Bruce Feustel, a senior fellow at NCSL. "We're not saying abandon your partisan beliefs. Be very clear about what you want from the beginning — but accomplishing that requires you to work with others who want different things."

IN THE WORLD

Palestinians choose successor to Arafat

Exit polls show Abbas with clear victory as president

BY MOHAMMED DARAGH-MEH

The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Palestinians held their first presidential election in nine years Sunday, choosing a successor to longtime leader Yasser Arafat in a vote many across the world hoped would usher in a moderate leadership and revitalize the Middle East peace process.

Mahmoud Abbas candidate of Arafat's ruling Fatah movement, won 66 percent of the vote in the election Sunday, according to an exit poll.

Such a margin of victory would give Abbas a clear mandate to renew peace talks with Israel, rein in militants and reform the corruption-riddled Palestinian Authority.

Abbas' main challenger, Mustafa Barghouti, won 19.7 percent of the vote, according to the poll conducted by the independent Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research. Five other candidates are running.

The poll was based on about responses from about 10,000 voters, with an error margin of 3 percentage points.

Voting went relatively smoothly in the incident, five candidates burst into an election office, firing into the air and complaining that the names of their relatives had been left off registration lists. In Jerusalem, there was some

confusion over voter lists that was eventually resolved, with the help of international observers.

Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said the Palestinians serve as an example to the Arab world, noting that seven candidates are competing. "This is a message to President Bush, to the rest of the world, that the problem we have here is not the kind of system we have, it's not reform, it's the Israeli occupation," Erekat said.

Bush has said a resumption of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks must be accompanied by sweeping Palestinian government reform. Secretary of State Colin Powell, speaking on CNN, praised the vote as a "moment of opportunity for both sides."

Visiting Sen. John Kerry, who challenged Bush in the 2004 U.S. presidential election, met with candidates in the West Bank. "We're here because we have very, very high hopes for an election that can help move the peace process forward," he said.

Israel said it is ready to meet with Abbas after the election, offering to release Palestinian prisoners if he can halt rocket attacks on Israeli communities.

Polls opened at 7 a.m. across the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem. Voters were slow to arrive, and by noon only about 30 percent had cast ballots. Later in the day, election officials simplified procedures, allowing vot-

ers to cast ballots in any of more than 1,000 locations, rather than where they registered.

This enabled thousands of members of the Palestinian security services — likely Abbas supporters — to cast ballots where they serve, rather than having to travel to their hometowns.

Police officer Mohammed Juma was one of the first voters at the Jallil school in Gaza City. He turned his pistol before casting his vote for Abbas. "I believe he is the only one capable of taking us to the safe side of this ocean of conflict," he said.

Abbas, accompanied by his family, voted at Arafat's former headquarters in Ramallah. "The election is going well and that indicates that the Palestinian people are heading toward democracy," he said.

Abbas needs a strong showing — analysts say perhaps up to two-thirds of the vote — to deal effectively with both militants and Israel. Recent polls forecast Abbas getting anywhere from 52 percent to 65 percent. Five other candidates are running.

Only minor problems were reported in Gaza and the West Bank, such as an Israeli failure to remove boulders from a road leading to a polling station near Nablus. But in Jerusalem, Palestinians and international observers complained of confusion over registration lists, and Palestinians accused Israel of trying to intimidate them.



A Palestinian boy, a supporter of presidential candidate Mahmoud Abbas shouts slogans outside a polling station in Abu Dis, on the outskirts of Jerusalem. Palestinians held their first presidential election in nine years, choosing a successor to longtime leader Yasser Arafat in a vote that many hoped would revitalize the Mideast peace process.

Refugees watch events closely

The Associated Press

BAQA CAMP, Jordan — Yehya Shatarat punched his fist into his hand as he watched satellite television pictures of Palestinians in the West Bank voting for a successor to the late Yasser Arafat.

"Mahmoud Abbas is definitely the winner and he will destroy us completely because he sold out the Palestinian cause to Israel and America a long time ago," said the 28-year-old refugee, referring to the Palestinian who is expected to easily win the presidential race.

Shatarat wasn't the only one in the camps scattered across the Middle East who expressed frustration at having no say in choosing the leaders who will sit down with Israel to decide the fate of Palestinian refugees.

Israel flatly rejects allowing hundreds of thousands of refugees and their descendants to return to homes abandoned in the 1948 and 1967 Middle East wars, saying that would destroy the country as a Jewish majority state.

Only Palestinians in the territories were able to cast ballots on Sunday.

Blair says Bush should lead talks

The Associated Press

LONDON — British Prime Minister Tony Blair said Sunday that he expected President Bush to lead final status negotiations on the creation of a Palestinian state after negotiations to make such a state viable.

Blair said a London conference on strengthening and reforming the Palestinian administration, its security forces and financial situation would take place March 1-2. He said talks would be used to prepare Palestinians for the possibility of a proper state.

"If we can provide the help for the Palestinians to develop that basic infrastructure of a viable state, then (Bush) is prepared to do the negotiations that make it viable in terms of its territory too," Blair told British Broadcasting Corp. TV.

"If we can get that conference successfully moving ahead and then the Israelis disengage from part of the occupied territories, then I believe that President Bush will be willing in those circumstances to get back into the roadmap and get back into the conferences that can lead to a proper final status resolution."



University of Maryland University College Europe

financing your education



Financing your education is easy and affordable with UMUC. In addition to tuition assistance, VA benefits, or employer tuition remission, most students are eligible for at least one type of financial aid, such as scholarships, grants, and loans. Find out how you qualify by contacting us!

www.ed.umuc.edu/ffo

contact us!

For more information, visit your local UMUC-Europe field representative and pick up a *Guide to Financial Aid*. You may also contact the Financial Aid Office directly at DSN 370-6762 or CIV +49-(0)6221-378324, or go to our Web site at www.ed.umuc.edu/ffo.

Storms kill at least 13 across northern Europe

BY AUDREY WOODS

The Associated Press

LONDON — Powerful winds and heavy rain swept across northern Europe overnight from Britain to Russia, leaving at least 13 dead by Sunday, inundating areas of Britain and suspending key air and sea transport. Hundreds of thousands of homes lost power.

Key bridges and airports were temporarily closed, and rail and ferry traffic was badly disrupted. High water in the Russian port city of St. Petersburg forced the closure of some subway stations.

The storm was one of the worst to hit Scandinavia in years, with winds clocked in some areas at more than 75 mph, meteorologists said.

At least six people died in Sweden, in-

cluding two whose cars were hit by falling tree branches, police and rescue officials said. One motorist died in Denmark when a tree crashed onto his car in Odense, 105 miles west of Copenhagen, and three others were killed by debris and falling trees.

Severe gales battered north Britain, and heavy rains caused serious flooding, particularly in the northwest county of Cumbria, where the city of Carlisle was cut off by the swollen River Eden, and people climbed to upper stories to escape the rising floodwaters.

Police asked boat owners to help them reach Carlisle residents, and military helicopters were called in to lift about a dozen people from rooftops.

"We've rescued a 90-year-old man. We've had a family including a young baby rescued out of an upstairs window," said Royal Air Force spokesman Mike Milford.

Three people were reported dead in the Carlisle area, but details of the deaths were not immediately released. At least one other person was reported swept away in a swollen river in Yorkshire county, northern England.

In the north German state of Schleswig-Holstein, winds damaged houses and forced the shutdown of train and ferry links and highway bridges. Two 20-year-old men, whose kayak capsized on a lake near the town of Landwedel were missing, police said.

In St. Petersburg, on the Gulf of Finland, some streets were flooded and six subway stations were shut Sunday morning because water levels on the gulf were dangerously high, a city emergency official said.

Three stations were reopened after the water level receded somewhat, he said.

The water in the Neva River and the canals of the former Imperial capital appeared about 6 feet higher than normal, reaching within about two feet of street level, while docks for riverboats and steps leading down to the river were flooded.

In Finland, sea levels reached record highs, cutting off several coastal roads, but no major damage was reported. Rescue teams piled thousands of sandbags and large bales of recycled paper on the waterfront in downtown Helsinki near the president's palace where the sea rose 5 feet above normal levels onto the streets and market place.

More than 400,000 Swedish households were without power Sunday morning, authorities said. In Denmark, about 60,000 households lost electricity.

Sudan, rebels sign peace agreement

The Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — Sudan's government and the country's main rebel leader signed a comprehensive peace agreement to end Africa's longest-running conflict Sunday, concluding an eight-year process to stop a civil war that has cost more than 2 million lives since 1983.

In a lavish ceremony in neighboring Kenya — where the talks were based — Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Mohammed Taha and John Garang, chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, signed the peace agreement.

The north-south war has pitted Sudan's Islamic-dominated government against rebels seeking greater autonomy and a greater share of the country's wealth for the largely animist south. The conflict is blamed for more than 2 million deaths, primarily from war-induced famine and disease.

Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, Italy's Foreign Minister Gianfranco Fini and Norwegian International Development Minister Hilde Johnson signed as witnesses to the agreement.



Sudan's Vice President Ali Osman Taha, left, and John Garang, chairman of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, sign peace agreement documents Sunday at Nyayo Stadium in Nairobi, Kenya. They are watched by Kenya's President Mwai Kibaki, third left, and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, fourth left.

DoDDS Students and Parents

Tune in to Power Network Radio to talk to recent DoDDS graduates about getting ready for college!

Wednesday, January 12th at 9:00am CET

Call with your questions:
DSN 389-4590 or CIV +49 (0) 621 46085 590
or email: openline@afneurope.net



Italy's smokers take last puffs before new law goes into effect

BY FRANCES D'EMILIO

The Associated Press

ROME — Smokers in Italy took their last puffs in smoky bars and trattorias Sunday, hours before the start of a tough law barring smoking in offices, eateries, pubs and other public places.

The outdoors, private homes, and restaurants and bars with ventilated smoking rooms are virtually the only places spared from the law, which was championed by Italy's Health Minister Girolamo Sirchia, a physician.

Enforcement of the law was to begin at 12:01 a.m. Monday, when many bars and clubs will still be serving customers.

In a restaurant near Viterbo, north of Rome, a dozen cigar aficionados reserved a table for a kind of farewell dinner, promising to puff away on Tuscan and Cuban cigars between courses before the clock struck midnight, the Italian news agency ANSA reported.

In the end we'll get used to not smoking in restaurants or bars,

just like we've already had to do, for example, in trains and planes," said Francesca Cola, a 38-year-old clothing store owner, smoking a cigarette as she sat outside a cafe on Rome's central Piazza Venezia.

Her annoyance, however, was plain. "I think this is excessive zeal against smokers, it's a witch hunt," she said.

The law, described as one of the toughest in Europe, bans smoking on public transport and in hospitals, cinemas and schools.

In a country where restaurant diners rarely ask if drifting smoke is bothersome to others and doctors and visitors will puff away in hospital corridors, about 26 percent of people smoke, according to Health Ministry figures.

Smokers now face fines if they're caught lighting up where they shouldn't. Owners of premises that close an eye to smoking face stiffer fines, as high as \$2,904.

Bars and restaurants have lobbied for more time to prepare no-smoking zones, but have been denied.

STARS AND STRIPES

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THOMAS E. KELSCH, Publisher
THOMAS BIERMANN, General Manager, Europe
LT. COL. CYNTHIA J. SOCHA, Commander

News and Editorial

DAVID MAZZARELLA, Executive Director
ROB CLARK, Managing Editor
BOB GRIMSHAW, Associate Editor
ANDY BRIMMON, Executive Director
SCOTT BURGESS, Editor, East Europe Chief
JOE GORNELI, Electronic Editor
ASSISTANT MANAGER
Sharon Olson, News
Peter Phibkey, PhotoGraphics
Brian Brown, Features
Sean Moores, Sports

Addresses

U.S. MAIL: Unit 5480,APO 96345
INTERNATIONAL MAIL: Postfach 1310, 63435 Griesheim,
Germany
FAX: 049-8416, ext. 4 (+49) (0) 6155-601416

LEADERS: leaders@mail.strips.com
CENTRAL OFFICE: 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington DC
20045-1101, Phone USN 312-763-9900 or ext. (+1) (202)
763-9900 or ext. (+1) (202) 763-6980

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: David Mazzarella, 529 14th St. NW, Suite
350, Washington, DC 20045-1101, Phone USN 312-763-9945 or
ext. (+1) 215-6245
E-mail: davidmazzarella@strips.com

EMBASSY: 2800 Wilson Blvd., Suite 200, Arlington, VA
22201-4302, Phone USN 703-528-1100, Fax USN 703-528-1100
E-mail: embassymail@mail.strips.com

How to call us

Editor: USN 349-8237, ext. (+49) (0) 6155-60127
USN 349-8403, ext. (+49) (0) 6155-60100
Sports: USN 349-8237, ext. (+49) (0) 6155-60107
Circulation: USN 349-8403, ext. (+49) (0) 6155-60147
Advertising: USN 349-8237, ext. (+49) (0) 6155-60133,43

News Bureaus

Berlin: GERMANY (country code +49)
Phone: USN 309-7535, USN 469-7957 or ext. (0) 9156896; fax USN
469-8007 or ext. (0) 9156800-8007

Bombardier: Terry Boyd, 222nd St., APO AE 09034, USN
950-5800, ext. (0) 6155-60106
E-mail: terryboyd@mail.strips.com

Dayton: Neil Dougherty, Unit 29480, APO AE 09211, USN
949-8406 or ext. (0) 6155-60106
E-mail: neildougherty@mail.strips.com; Ward Sanderson, Unit
29480, APO AE 09211, USN 949-8428 or ext. (0) 6155-60126
E-mail: ward.sanderson@mail.strips.com

Headline Jobs: Unit 29480, APO AE 09211, USN 949-8429 or
ext. (0) 6155-60126
Herald-Job: James J. Anderson, Room 117, Roomer's 104,
APO SF 96348, USN 415-7010 or ext. (0) 6227-8095A, fax
USN 612-72421, E-mail:
andersonj@mail.strips.com

Kansas: James P. Gaudin, APO KS 09227-3717, USN
948-5585 or ext. (0) 6155-60114 or (0) 6157-1400, fax
USN 948-5585

Stuttgart: Charles C. OHR, 436 Ave. APO AE 09107-0465,
USN 912-2088 or ext. (0) 3711-729888, ext. (0) 371-8400
E-mail: charlesohr@mail.strips.com

Wizburg: Steve Liewer, LT (0) 6157-1500 or ext. 0931-467-7001,
fax USN (0) 931-700372, E-mail: steveliewer@mail.strips.com

ITALY

Anzio-Vicenza: Peter Harris, USN 3146 635-7652 or ext. (0) 931
943-7652, second line USN 614 634-4222 or ext. (0) 931
643-4222, E-mail: harripeter@mail.strips.com

Naples: Sammie Jantz and Janet Cain, USN 616 506, FPO AE
09619, USN 626-5157 or ext. (+39) (081) 568-5157, fax
USN 626-5150 or ext. (+39) (081) 568-5150, E-mail:
jantz@mail.strips.com, cainj@mail.strips.com

SPAIN

Rota: Scott Schumann, PO Box 813, FPO AE 08665, USN
727-1099 or ext. (0) 6157-1099, fax USN 727-1094 or
ext. (+1) (956) 82-1034
E-mail: schumanns@mail.strips.com

UNITED KINGDOM

RAF Mildenhall: Ron Jensen, Basing 465 EC25-UX, RAF Mildenhall,
Norfolk, UK GU84 0AB, USN 44 (0) 1538-5444, ext. (+44) (0)
1538-5444, ext. (+44) (0) 1538-718013,
E-mail: ronjensen@mail.strips.com

WASHINGTON DC

Bureau editor: Patrick Dickson, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350,
Washington DC 20045-1101, Phone USN 312-763-9969, E-mail:
patrickd@mail.strips.com

USN 312-763-9969, ext. (+1) (703) 692-1275, Fax USN 312-763-9969, ext. (+1) (703)
692-2924, and Lee Stame, 529 14th Street NW, Suite
350, Washington DC 20045-1101, ext. (+1) (202) 763-1183,
fax USN 312-763-9969, E-mail: lee.stame@mail.strips.com,
stame@mail.strips.com and shanah@mail.strips.com

Printed in Italy by Editrice Telepianta

Stars and Stripes (ISSN 017272) is published by the Inland Christmas and New Year for 30 cents daily and \$1 Sunday by the Stars and Stripes Company, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1101. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, DC. Postmaster: Send address changes to Editors, Stars and Stripes, Unit 5480, APO 96345-1101.

© Copyright and Pacific Star Services 2004

This newspaper is published for publication by the Department of Defense for members of the Military Service overseas. However, the contents of the STARS and STRIPES are not to be considered as the official views or opinions of the U.S. Government, including the Department of Defense or the U.S. European Command. As a paid newspaper, the STARS and STRIPES may be distributed through official mail channels as appropriate. For the Department to maintain official mail locations where overseas DD personnel are located.

Consent to publish in this newspaper, including notices, insertions or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or the STARS and STRIPES of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised in this publication that may be available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or other prohibited basis, except as may be required by law, are the property of their respective owners, and their use, sale, or other prohibited basis of the purchaser, user, or patron.

Place the mission first

The writer of "Don't give him any medals" (letter, Dec. 25) asserts that he is against stop loss and opposed to people of higher rank receiving medals while lower enlisted don't receive as many.

I've been in Iraq for almost a year also and I'd just like to note that the duration or even the mere status of deployment does not make anyone more of an expert on Army policy than anyone else. The writer says there is a right to peacefully protest the government. Wonderful. Maybe the writer feels sympathy for the derelict soldiers who refused to go on a convoy to deliver fuel and water.

Or maybe the writer sympathizes with the soldier who had his friend shoot him so that he wouldn't have to return to Iraq. The Soldier's Creed states, "I will always place the mission first." That is your duty as a soldier.

I don't like to comply with stupidity and lavish orders by my command. However, when it comes to medals, you do what you're told, no questions asked. To the writer, cry me a river.

As for the second argument about medals, the writer obviously has a hurt pride. Medals carry no value. Medals carry no significance. The Army uses medals as a means of incentive and tangible recognition. If you feel you need a medal to feel better about yourself or to feel that you've accomplished something, then perhaps you haven't done as much as you thought you would do. Deal with it.

As to the direct argument, yes, higher-ups do tend to get more medals than lower enlisted soldiers. That's how it is everywhere you go. Deal with it.

Spec. Anthony Mercurio
Logistics Support Area Anconia, Iraq

What would John Wayne do?

President Bush has defined his enemy in terms that dictate no other resolution except conflict — his rejection of compromise and his refusal to negotiate. When you are with us, or you are with the terrorists.

When you see the world in black-and-white terms, there is no room for "gray matter." Why is he so inclined to see dark shadows more starkly in the Middle East than anywhere else?

Take North Korea, which has threatened to use nuclear weapons against the United States. Rather than confront North Korea, Bush has threatened Iran for failing to submit its nuclear program to international sanctions, a demand he has not handed down to Israel. He turned his back on Middle East peace-making, giving Ariel Sharon a mandate to reverse all the compromises signed during the Oslo peace process.

Changes in his administration suggest the intentions ahead for the Middle East. The international basis of the first term have ended and the hawks have prevailed. Their most notable victory is Condoleezza Rice. No Cabinet post will have more of an impact on the Middle East than that of secretary of state. Rice's appointment forebodes a bleak future for Palestinian-Israeli relations.

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance to the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

Send your letters to:

U.S. Mail: Stars and Stripes
Postfach 1310
63435 Griesheim
International mail: Stars and Stripes
Postfach 1310
63435 Griesheim

Via fax: (Country code +49) (0) 6155/601395;
USN 349-8395

E-mail: letters@mail.strips.com

Iraq is a troubling challenge for our country, as the number of American casualties continues to mount and analogies with Vietnam grow. Either we must escalate American involvement to defeat the insurgents, or gracefully walk away under the guise of turning over the future of Iraq to an even-less-stable new Iraqi government. Clearly, the war has there not reduced international terrorism. Rather it has turned the country into a training ground for terrorists that will only worsen the United States withdraws prematurely.

What concerns me is the idea that President Bush is pondering a question many Americans are asked in jest: "What would John Wayne do in a situation like this?"

Nick Nicoletopoulos
Stavanger, Norway

'Morning-after pill' info false

The article "Study: Access to 'morning-after pill' doesn't affect sexual habits" in the Jan. 6 Europe edition of Stripes ("Study: Access to 'morning-after pill' doesn't encourage risky sex," Mideast edition) states: "The medical profession does not consider emergency contraception to be an abortion pill... because [it] works by preventing a pregnancy from starting rather than ending an existing one." This statement is false if you consider fertilization as the beginning of life. The "morning-after pill" works by preventing an already-fertilized egg (a baby human, in my opinion) from implanting. Therefore, I find this statement very misleading.

Women, in my opinion, deserve the truth about this pill so they can make an informed decision. Are we afraid to give it to them?

Carole Hart, R.N.
Spongdaheim Air Base, Germany

Stateside prices vs. AAFFS's

My family and I spent two weeks in Florida over the holidays. We rented an SUV, did lots of driving, and made regular stops at the gas station.

We initially paid \$1.83 a gallon, but prices started going down. I filled the tank before turning in the rental and paid \$1.75 a gallon. We were pleasantly surprised at the price, considering we had paid more than \$240 for 400 liters at the Vicenza, Italy, post exchange on Nov. 30 (about \$2.27 a gallon). We didn't really need 400 liters, but the clerk said the price was going up on Dec. 1.

I returned to the exchange on Jan. 3 to buy another 200 liters. I was surprised to see the price was now \$1.40. That equates to about \$2.65 a gallon!

We read lots of letters to the editor, some from disgruntled Army and Air Force Exchange Service patrons, others from people ranting about how gas is the cost-of-living allowance is and how that's supposed to defray gas costs. Each person has his right to an opinion, and here's mine: Ninety cents a gallon more for gas is ridiculous (that's more than 50 percent higher). There has to be some sort of recourse other than paying the atrocious price.

Perhaps AAFFS could re-evaluate its gas pricing and Morale, Welfare and Recreation contributions. Maybe something like the gas mileage installation that the United States have AAFFS gas stations, the price overseas could be the average that AAFFS customers pay at stateside locations, not the U.S. average cost. Result: Servicemembers are paying roughly the same price.

If AAFFS has to eat a little bit of the cost overseas for one reason or another, good. Officials can consider it part of their contribution to the MWR programs and deduct that amount from their donations each year. That would boost my morale, and I'll use my COLA for welfare and recreation.

Chris Holston
Vicenza, Italy

Reason to dislike USAF ads

I agree wholeheartedly with "Too many USAF commercials" (letter, Jan. 5). American officials are asked in just one year, they would boost my morale, and I'll use my COLA for welfare and recreation.

Chris Holston
Vicenza, Italy

In agreeing with "Too many USAF commercials" (letter, Jan. 5), I agree wholeheartedly with "Too many USAF commercials" (letter, Jan. 5). American officials are asked in just one year, they would boost my morale, and I'll use my COLA for welfare and recreation.

Under ordinary circumstances, this produces nothing more than mild intoxication over the course of an evening. If, however, soldiers were to use either the volume of USAF commercials or the catch phrases therein ("O! Triple Seven"), rampant alcoholism could ensue. In the course of just one hour during AFN prime time, it is not unusual to see up to seven of these ads. Could you imagine the detrimental effect this could have on unit readiness, to say nothing of the burden placed upon our already-overworked first responders and counselors?

If for no other reason than this, the number of USAF commercials shown on AFN should be reduced.

Master Sgt. Joseph F. Flaherty
Heidelberg, Germany

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury



OPINION

Review as 'infidels,' yet to the rescue again

The contrast could not have been clearer. The day President Bush recruited former Presidents Bill Clinton and G.W. Bush to generate tsunami-relief donations (www.freedomcorps.gov), Osama bin Laden's comrades detonated three bombs in Baghdad, killing 16 Iraqi cops and soldiers toiling to rebuild their country.

Once again, "the Great Satan" rescues endangered Muslims while Islamic zealots blew their co-religionists to bits. As the South Asian recovery American public diplomacy spokesman highlights this comparison to Muslims worldwide.

Countless Muslims were battered on "Black Sunday." Indonesia, Earth's most populous Islamic nation, was lashed hardest with 94,200 fatalities by Wednesday. Sri Lanka and India, both with significant Muslim minorities, have lost 30,240 and 9,675 people, respectively, so largely spared on Dec. 26, an increasingly violent Muslim citizenry lives in southern Thailand, a country that has lost 5,288. Astonishingly, in Somalia and Tanzania, the 2004 tsunami west of the massive Indonesian earthquake that triggered this emergency — the tsunami respectively killed 200 and 10 among their largely Muslim populations.

These and other nations have begun to see America's \$350 million in government relief. At least \$190 million in private assistance is en route, from multimillion-dollar corporate contributions to double-digit sums gleaned from piggy banks and church collection plates.

At an estimated \$4 million daily, the Penta-

gon has mobilized its largest Asian military operation since Saigon fell to communism (www.pacom.mil). By the middle of last week, 13,435 C-130s had used 21 vessels, 41 air-planes and 50 helicopters to deliver 205 tons of supplies. U.S. warships desalinate water for the parched. There is much more help on the way.

All this from a nation that our Islamofascist enemies claim is committed to vanquishing their Muslim brethren.

America and the civilized world, the "infidels" in Islamofascism's crosshairs, are locked in a death match with this toxic ideology and its enthusiasts. Winning this struggle involves swaying rank-and-file Muslims around the world, many of whom call South Asia home. They and their Middle Eastern peers have eyes and ears attached to their hearts and minds. American press officers at embassies in Muslim nations should communicate this ongoing story via the Voice of America, local media outlets, public appearances, conversations with pedestrians on the Arab street, and even advertising, where available.

They also should observe that this matches America's record of aiding at-risk Muslims. The United States saved Muslims in Bosnia and Kosovo, for instance, and donated \$2.5 billion in development assistance to the Middle East and Northern Africa in 2003 alone, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Supply boxes and food sacks should be emblazoned with American flags. Glis who distribute that assistance should wear Old Glory on their uniforms. Private-sector Americans should offer to offer T-shirts that identify them as U.S. ambassadors of good will.

We also should compare our generosity to the silence and stinginess of our foes. To date, bin Laden has yet to offer a public word of sympathy regarding the hundreds of thousands of Muslims this calamity has killed, maimed and dispossessed. The recu-



sive billionaire apparently has shared none of his wealth with the Muslims he claims to cherish.

He has not even publicly invited fellow Muslims to open their wallets to aid those in, say, Banda Aceh, the largely Islamic Sumatran city erased like a misspelled word just 20 minutes after a 9-magnitude earthquake as ferocious as 10,000 Nagassats.

While \$350 million in government help now makes America the fourth-largest donor-nation (behind Australia's \$810 million, Germany's \$680 million, and Japan's \$500 million), no Muslim country rated among the top 10 benefactors. Before pledging \$30 million Tuesday, 19th-ranked Saudi Arabia offered just \$10 million. Sandra Bullock, an actress bereft of mineral resources,

somehow gave the Red Cross \$1 million (www.redcross.org).

Meanwhile, legislator Walid Tabtabai wrote in Kuwait's Al Watan daily that the deadly waves were "a test for believers and punishment for the unjust." Radical Islamic commentator Abu Zaynab called this catastrophe "a warning from Allah" to those who "delay and neglect prayers ... indulge in free mixing ... and listen to music and songs."

America leads this massive mission of mercy because it is the right thing to do. That it benefits many Muslims who Islamofascists hope to infuse with hate is even more reason for us to show them our love.

Derry Murdock is a columnist with Scripps Howard News Service and a senior fellow with the Atlantic Economic Research Foundation in Fairfax, Va.

Fat diets help you lose 5, but they're far from fab

BY MICHAEL FUMENTO

Scripps Howard

This month millions of Americans made a New Year's resolution to lose weight. By this week many will be falling off the wagon. They will continue to be part of a national tragedy in which 65 percent of Americans are overweight or obese. Medical studies rarely show what works — just what doesn't.

Thus a report in the Jan. 4 *Annals of Internal Medicine* was slightly more helpful than the one evaluating 10 of the most popular weight-loss programs. It found that for nine there was either no evidence that they worked or, indeed, evidence that they didn't. One lonely plan, however, *Weight Watchers*, was somewhat effective.

Yet even the *Weight Watchers* results were hardly spectacular. In the single study worth evaluating, members lost only 5 percent of their initial weight (around 10 pounds) and kept about half that off for at least two years.

So where does a heavy-weight turn? Approved weight-loss drugs are just better than nothing, though one that may be available next year, *Acomplia*, will be the best yet judging by tests so far.

Fat diets still work. It appears even in the low-carb craze — sparked by a July 2002 *New York Times Magazine* article by Gary Taubes that was essentially an advertorial for Atkins — is dying. According to the research firm NPD Group, the percent of Americans following low-carb diets such as Atkins, South Beach and the Zone fell by half just from last January to September. Atkins Nationals began laying off 40 percent of its employees in September.

The medical literature shows why. Short-term studies seem to vindicate Atkins.

But representative of longer ones is that which just appeared in the Jan. 5 *Journal of the American Medical Association*. It found that half of the Atkins dieters couldn't stick with the program for a year. Among those who did, although their beginning average weight was a morbidly obese 200 pounds, their loss at six months was 13 pounds and six months later it was eight pounds.

People like fat diets because they promise a free lunch, at least as far as calories are concerned. How else to explain the incredible success of diet books from gurus who are (or were when they died) fat themselves, in-

cluding Atkins, Andrew Weil and "Dr. Phil" McGraw? Taking weight-loss advice from these fat cats is like receiving religious tolerance lessons from Osama bin Laden.

This year, why not resolve to try a new tack? Instead of putting so much emphasis on input, try putting more on output. Consider information collected from the National Weight Control Registry, a group of about 4,000 people who lost an average of 60 pounds and kept off at least 30 pounds for more than six years. They do limit their calories to about 1,800 a day, but more than 90 percent also regularly exercise.

More weight-loss specialists also seem to be realizing the advantages of resistance exercise — free weights or machines with steel

plates, rubber bands, or bendable plastic rods. With aerobic exercise, you burn calories while doing it. But with resistance training you build muscle tissue that revs up your metabolism so you burn more calories 24/7. I attribute most of my 35-pound weight loss (maintained for seven years) to *Bowflex*, though I also bike ride and watch what I eat.

Having begun with words of discouragement, I conclude with the opposite: No matter how often you've failed to lose weight, there is no law — physical or otherwise — saying you'll fail this time. If you fall off the wagon, dust yourself off and get back on.

Michael Fumento is a senior fellow at Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C., and author of "Fat of the Land: The Obesity Epidemic and How Overweight Americans Can Help Themselves."

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



A tsunami survivor wades through still-flooded portion of Banda Aceh, Indonesia, on Sunday as a damaged vehicle lies in the background. As rescuers and soldiers conduct a clean-up effort, gunfire erupted near a U.N. compound where relief workers have been gathering. No one was hurt in what one U.N. official said "was probably one person shooting a few rounds and that was it."

Elsewhere, clashes between Christians and Hindus in Sri Lanka left three people dead and 37 wounded.



AP

India mulls technology for warning system

The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — India will search for the best technology available to set up an early warning system to protect the country from future tsunamis, the defense minister said Sunday.

No such system exists for the Indian Ocean, where a strong earthquake off Indonesia caused a tsunami on Dec. 26 that killed more than 150,000 people in southern Asia and east Africa, including India and its Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Leaders of the affected nations agreed to set up a region-wide tsunami warning system at an emergency meeting in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta last week, but didn't provide any details of the plan.

On Sunday, leaders of India's major political parties met with the prime minister to discuss relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the tsunami-ravaged areas.

"A government committee has been appointed to look into what technology could be made available," Defense Minister Pranab Mukherjee told reporters after the meeting.

He did not say whether such equipment would also provide early warnings for other countries.

The government says it would take up to 2½ years to put an advance warning system into place and it could cost up to \$2.7 billion. In India, 10,022 people are confirmed to have died in the tsunami and 5,617 are missing and presumed dead, Mukherjee said.

Meanwhile, India said it would consider individual requests for adoption of children orphaned by the tsunami, despite strict rules regarding adoption by foreigners.

Violence shakes tsunami-hit areas

Gunfire erupts in Indonesia; religious clashes in Sri Lanka kill three

BY JOCELYN PECKER

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — Indonesian warned aid workers Sunday that separatist rebels had infiltrated camps sheltering survivors of the Dec. 26 tsunami as fears escalated that the stricken area's long-simmering insurgency could hamper efforts to help victims.

Violence in tsunami-ravaged Sri Lanka also resumed, security fears for aid workers setting up operations there. Christians and Hindus clashed in the eastern part of the country, where a mas-

sive aid effort is underway. At least three people were killed and 37 injured.

In Banda Aceh, gunfire echoed through the main tsunami-hit city on Indonesia's Sumatra island Sunday. Indonesian authorities blamed separatist rebels for the shooting near the U.N. compound in Banda Aceh.

No aid workers were injured in either incident. Meanwhile, a tropical downpour lashed the air in the provincial capital, turning a major hub for relief supplies into a muddy mess.

Two weeks after walls of water flattened wide swaths of coastland around the Indian Ocean, people were still emerging from isolated villages and bodies were being pulled from the mud and debris as the death toll in 11 countries in Asia and Africa passed 150,000.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said Sunday the United States must plan to give long-term support to Indian Ocean nations hit by the slow tsunami as they cope with the loss process of recovery.

Powell, who toured the region last week, said he will tell Presi-

dent Bush in a meeting Monday that the United States will need to go beyond the immediate relief sent since the tsunami struck on Dec. 26.

The secretary said on ABC's "This Week" he will advise Bush "that this is a long-term prospect, that we use our money not just for immediate humanitarian relief, but for economic assistance, for infrastructure development."

About 400 Sri Lankans gathered in a peaceful protest Sunday opposite the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees office in the predominantly Tamil city of Jaffna, demanding that U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan visit the northern region to inspect damage caused by the tsunami.

The Tigers, who have fought a 20-year war for a Tamil homeland, invited Annan to tour the northern province. But government officials said they could not guarantee the U.N. chief's safety.

Annan said Sunday that he hoped it would not strain relations between the United Nations and the rebel group.

"I'm hoping to come back and be able to visit all areas of the country, not only those repaired,

but also to celebrate peace," he said. "The U.N. is not here to take sides."

U.N. officials in Indonesia downplayed the shooting, which took place near the home of a deputy provincial police chief, saying there was no indication the gunfire targeted efforts to feed the disaster's hungry and homeless.

Indonesian officials regularly blame Free Aceh Movement rebels for shootings and violence in Aceh, even if there is sometimes little evidence of their involvement.

The rebels have waged a separatist war in Aceh for nearly three decades. Thousands have been killed. There was an unofficial truce after last month's disaster, which left more than 100,000 people in the province, but a series of recent skirmishes have prompted Indonesia's military to step up patrols for the guerrillas.

Adding to security concerns is the appearance of Laskar Mujahidin, an extremist group with alleged links to al-Qaida. The group, which has set up an aid camp, says it is there to help and not target foreigners, but its reassurances haven't dampened concerns.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Dollar costs	\$1,359.0
British pound	10,737
British pound	51.93
Japanese yen (Jan. 10)	102.00
South Korean won (Jan. 10)	1,031.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	3.77
Canada (Dollar)	1,233
Canada (Dollar)	1,233
Denmark (Krone)	16.56
Hong Kong (Dollar)	6,072
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1,309.76
Malaysia (Ringgit)	7,915
Malaysia (Ringgit)	188.75
Iceland (Krona)	63,585
Japan (Yen)	4,937
Japan (Yen)	10,488
Kuwait (Dinar)	2,018
Norway (Krone)	9,189
Norway (Krone)	9,189
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.75
Singapore (Dollar)	1,646
South Korea (Won)	1,049.00
Switzerland (Franc)	1,056
Thailand (Baht)	36.25
Thailand (Baht)	36.25
U.S. (New York)	6045

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at U.S. government facilities in the country of issuance of the currency. Exchange rates for the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, for non-currency convertible currencies (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany with a credit card) are based on the bank facility. Commercial rates are inter-bank rates provided to reference banks. For non-currency convertible currencies, all figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the Swiss franc, which is expressed in dollars-to-dollar, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc exchange	
Gold	\$418.90
Silver	\$20.429

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.25
Discount rate	3.25
3-month bank market rate	3.25
3-month bill	2.82
3-month Treasury note	4.45

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Taking a break

The Associated Press

It's a new year and many of us are staring at a delicious new slice of vacation time. But will you have (or make) time to use it in 2005?

If you're a woman in the corporate world, using vacation time can be an even dicier proposition than it is for men. Many women are worried about keeping pace, moving up, battling gender barriers, balancing vacation time with what they already must take for children.

It needn't always be so, ar-

gues Mary Lou Quinlan, a former advertising executive who wrote "Time Off for Good Behavior: How Hardworking Women Can Take a Break and Change Their Lives," which is being released this month.

The book, which tells of Quinlan's decision to take a five-week break from her job, also covers the experiences of 37 other women professionals who decided their working lives required a break.

"When you're working really hard, it's not easy to see just how stressed you are," she writes.

4 dead in shootout

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi police killed four terrorists believed linked to al-Qaida after the militants fled their desert tent Sunday while throwing hand grenades at surrounding forces, the Interior Ministry said.

Authorities asked the militants to surrender after surrounding their tent in Nafud Thowairat, a remote town north of Zilfi province, some 170 miles north of the Saudi capital of Riyadh, the ministry said in a statement carried by the state-run Saudi Press Agency.

But the militants refused and tried to flee in a car while hurling hand grenades, the statement said. The four were killed by the police at about 7:30 a.m. Three Saudi security personnel were slightly injured.

Weapons, explosives, ammunition and documents were found in the tent, the statement said.

Gas facilities attacked

QUETTA, Pakistan — Assaults fired rockets at wells and a gas pipeline in southwestern Pakistan, killing a woman and wounding 14 other people, officials said Sunday.

One rocket struck the pipeline, sparking a fire and temporarily disrupting gas supply to a power generating plant Saturday in Sui, a tribal town about 215 miles southeast of Quetta, said Mohammed Akbar, a local government official. He said the supply was expected to resume later Sunday.

A woman died later at a hospital of injuries suffered when she was hit by rocket shrapnel landed in a village near the gas installations, said Noor Ahmed, a local police official.

From The Associated Press



EUROPEAN FORECAST

BeneLux: Cloudy with rain showers and gusty winds. Highs in the upper 40s to lower 50s. Tuesday lows in the lower 40s.

Britain, Ireland: Cloudy with rain showers and gusty winds. Highs in the upper 40s to upper 50s. Tuesday lows in the upper 30s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly cloudy with fog overnight. Highs in the mid-40s. Tuesday lows in the mid-20s.

France: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers. Highs in the 50s. Tuesday lows in the upper 30s to lower 40s.

Northern Germany: Cloudy with rain showers and gusty winds. Highs in the mid-40s to mid 50s. Tuesday lows in the upper 30s to mid-40s.

Southern Germany: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s to lower 50s. Tuesday lows in the 30s.

Hungary: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s. Tuesday lows in the upper 20s.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid-40s. Tuesday lows in the upper 20s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s to mid-60s. Tuesday lows in the 40s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. Tuesday lows in the lower 30s.

Norway: Cloudy with isolated rain showers. Highs in the mid-40s to lower 50s. Tuesday lows in the 30s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s to lower 60s. Tuesday lows in the mid-20s to mid-40s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s to lower 60s. Tuesday lows in the mid to upper 30s.

KEY: Sun, Partly cloudy, Mostly cloudy, Cloudy, Shower, Storms, Rain, Rain/snow, Snow

Cold front, Warm front, Trough, Occluded, Station front, Low, High

AFRICA

City	HI	LO	City	HI	LO
Cape Town	80	64	Mogadishu	89	75
Sharm El	84	64	Nairobi	82	67
Freeport	88	73	Rabat	82	67
Kinshasa	88	72	Yopouk	62	47

MIDEAST



For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home page at: <https://aws.sembach.af.mil> <http://aws.public.sembach.af.mil>

THE WORLD

City	HI	LO	City	HI	LO
Amsterdam	51	40	Manila	86	73
Batavia	71	47	Mexico City	70	41
Beijing	37	12	Montreal	26	12
Bombay	62	49	Riyadh	72	41
Bermuda	73	61	Rio de Jan	89	75
Buenos Aires	59	49	Sao Paulo	82	67
Calcutta	76	52	Sofia	59	35
Hankou	62	42	Sydney	78	64
Hong Kong	65	62	Tokyo	49	38
Lisbon	56	44	Tsuyoi	49	38

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

City	HI	LO	City	HI	LO
Albany, N.Y.	74	53	Chicago	42	34
Alton, Ill.	42	34	Cincinnati	42	34
Alton, N.J.	42	34	Columbus, Ga.	73	44
Alton, N.C.	42	34	Columbus, Ohio	72	41
Alton, N.H.	42	34	Columbus, Miss.	73	44
Alton, S.C.	42	34	Corpus Christi	76	63
Alton, Tex.	42	34	Dallas/Ft. Worth	71	58
Alton, Va.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, W.Va.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Wyo.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Ark.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Cal.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Fla.	42	34	Detroit	39	23
Alton, Ga.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Ill.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Ind.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, Iowa	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Kan.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Ky.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, La.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Me.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, Mich.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Minn.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Miss.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Mo.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, N.C.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, N.D.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Ohio	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Okla.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Pa.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, S.C.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, S.D.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Tenn.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Tex.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Va.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, W.Va.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, Wyo.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Ark.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Cal.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Fla.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Ga.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, Ill.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Ind.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Iowa	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Kan.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Ky.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, La.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Me.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Mich.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Minn.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Miss.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, Mo.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, N.C.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, N.D.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Ohio	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Okla.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, Pa.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, S.C.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, S.D.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Tenn.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Tex.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, Va.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, W.Va.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Wyo.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Ark.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Cal.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, Fla.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Ga.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Ill.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Ind.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Iowa	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, Kan.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Ky.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, La.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Me.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Mich.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, Minn.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Miss.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Mo.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, N.C.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, N.D.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, Ohio	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Okla.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Pa.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, S.C.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, S.D.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, Tenn.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Tex.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Va.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, W.Va.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Wyo.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, Ark.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Cal.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Fla.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Ga.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Ill.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, Ind.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Iowa	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Kan.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Ky.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, La.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, Me.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Mich.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Minn.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Miss.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Mo.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, N.C.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, N.D.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Ohio	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Okla.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Pa.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, S.C.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, S.D.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Tenn.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Tex.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Va.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, W.Va.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Wyo.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Ark.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Cal.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Fla.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, Ga.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Ill.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Ind.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Iowa	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Kan.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, Ky.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, La.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Me.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Mich.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Minn.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, Miss.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Mo.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, N.C.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, N.D.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Ohio	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, Okla.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Pa.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, S.C.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, S.D.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Tenn.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, Tex.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Va.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, W.Va.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Wyo.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Ark.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, Cal.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Fla.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Ga.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Ill.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Ind.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, Iowa	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Kan.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Ky.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, La.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, Me.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, Mich.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Minn.	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Miss.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Mo.	42	34	Denver	78	58
Alton, N.C.	42	34	Dayton	58	35
Alton, N.D.	42	34	Daytona Beach	45	28
Alton, Ohio	42	34	Denver	49	24
Alton, Okla.	42	34	Des Moines	39	23
Alton, Pa.	42	34	Denver	78	58

Fake little blue pills

CA LOS ANGELES — A man has pleaded guilty to smuggling tens of thousands of counterfeit Viagra tablets from China and manufacturing hundreds of thousands more.

Frank Fu Jen Huang, 58, entered his plea the day his trial was to begin. He could face as much as 51 years in prison on charges of conspiracy, trafficking in counterfeit goods and causing a counterfeit drug to be made or sold, authorities said.

The counterfeit pills did not have the right mix of ingredients but looked like the blue pills manufactured by Pfizer Inc., authorities said.

Sentencing was set for March 28.

Breathalyzer replacement

NJ NEWARK — New alcohol-detecting machines to measure motorists' blood-alcohol levels are in the process of replacing the Breathalyzer machines that have been used by New Jersey police for decades. The Sayreville police department became the first in the state to use the Alcotest 7110, which is considered an improvement over the Breathalyzer because it can be employed with less setup time. Breathalyzers, invented in the 1950s, can take as long as 20 minutes to set up before a driver can be tested.

Anti-smoking efforts fail

IL SPRINGFIELD — The American Lung Association of Illinois gave the state's anti-smoking efforts a failing grade for the third year in a row and said local governments should be given more authority to regulate smoking. The association awarded Illinois an "F" in categories such as smoking prevention and children's access to cigarettes. Illinois earned a passing grade in one program — a "C" for its 98-cent-a-pack cigarette tax.

Tainted water

NE GRAND ISLAND — Final well water tests have confirmed fears of more groundwater contamination in the Grand Island area.

Preliminary testing in northeast Grand Island had indicated seven private wells contained industrial solvents at a level not safe for drinking. Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality spokesman Brian McMans says the good news is none of the wells were being used for drinking water. After testing 76 private wells in the area, McMans says 10 others had detectable levels of solvents but were below the drinking water standards. The source of the contamination is suspected to be the Nebraska Solvents Co., which went out of business in 1988.

Race stirs debate

NM SHIPROCK — Navajo President Joe Shirley Jr.'s hiring of a white man as the Navajo Nation's new spokesman for \$81,640 a year is prompting criticism. George Hardeen's salary eclipses Shirley's own base wage of \$55,000. Duane Yazzie, the president of the Navajo's Shiprock chap-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

ter, argues the salary is unwarranted and says there were capable Navajo candidates for the job. Hardeen is married to a Navajo woman, has Navajo children and lives on tribal land.

Prison sex suit

NY WHITE PLAINS — Carolyn Warmus, who was convicted of murdering her lover's wife, has filed a lawsuit claiming she was forced to have sex with correction officers so she could spend time out of her prison cell.

The civil rights suit claims Warmus, 40, also had to endure sexual advances from prison staff while she was monitored under the prison's "tracker" system for high-profile inmates. The Journal News reported.

Warmus said she consented to sex on several occasions in order to gain access to the prison's recreation room, where she could make calls to relatives and watch television.

"This sexual abuse is improper, humiliating, degrading, and embarrassing," she wrote in the suit.

Though she is the daughter of an insurance magnate, Warmus said in the suit that she could not afford a lawyer and asked U.S. District Judge Stephen Robinson to appoint one for her.

Teen drug use down

HI HONOLULU — A state Department of Health survey



Frozen fruit

A crabapple is covered in ice after an ice storm in Kansas City, Mo.

shows that use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco by Hawaii teenagers is declining, and is at its lowest level in a decade. Renee Storm Pearson, principal investigator for the survey, says illicit drug use has been dropping in categories. She says use of crystal methamphetamine, or "ice," by teens is at a record low. Pearson says the study also shows that a large number of students are still experimenting with drugs and alcohol.

Elderly man subdued

MN ST. PAUL — Police said they are investigating an incident in which an officer pepper-sprayed an 85-year-old man during a traffic stop.

Leon Nins said officer Michael Lee also beat him after he took too long to stop his car. Police deny that and say Nins attacked Lee.

Leaders of St. Paul's NAACP chapter and St. Paul African American Leadership Council alleged that race was a factor. Nins is black.

Nins said at a news conference that he was bringing sandwiches and cupcakes to his wife during his daily visit to her nursing home Dec. 27 when Lee tried to pull him over for having expired license tabs.

OD, not taser, killed man

FL HOLLYWOOD — A man who died shortly after police zapped him with a Taser was a victim of a cocaine overdose, not the stun gun, officials said.

Doctors said they found five times the toxic level of cocaine in Kevin Downing's system, the South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported.

Police say Downing was incoherent Dec. 15 in the middle of a busy street. Paramedics who happened by stopped to help Downing, who screamed something at them. They called police, sparking a confrontation. It took at least three officers to control and handcuff Downing, who died later at a hospital.

Teacher's great gift

PA PITTSBURGH — One of Mark Milanak's students scored a touchdown when he got him a Christmas gift.

Russell Malloy, 10, honored his favorite teacher — a die-hard Pittsburgh Steelers fan — by getting Hall of Fame running back Franco Harris to autograph a ball for the reading tutor.

Russell wrote Harris a letter after spending \$16 of his own money for the football, and asked Harris to sign it for Milanak, Russell's reading tutor at Pittsburgh's Bon Air Elementary School.

Russell had an "in" with Harris — his great aunt, Lisa Knechtel, has cut Harris' hair for 20 years at a downtown salon, and she gave the letter to Harris.

"I bought him a real football with my own money. Could you please sign it to my teacher for Christmas?" the note read.

Gina Malloy said her son repeated the second grade and had struggled in school until Milanak tutored him — often regaling the boy with stories of the Steelers' glory days, when Harris helped the team win four Super Bowls from 1975 to 1980.



Around the world

GlobalFlyer, flown by Steve Fossett, comes in for a landing at the Salina Municipal Airport in Kansas. Adventurer Fossett — the first person to circumnavigate the globe solo in a balloon — was set to begin his attempt at the first solo, nonstop flight around the world without refueling from an airport in Salina.



Couch sledding

Brian Sweeney, left, and Josh Wilson, right, push a makeshift sofa toboggan up a sledding hill at Lockwood Park in Racine, Wis.



The race is on

Chris Hotham, 14, steers his snowmobile as Danny DePuis, 12, hangs on as they zip through the snow in Southington, Conn. In the background, Joey Dupuis, 14, and his little brother, Ryan, also race through the field.



Key reflections

Icicles reflect the sunrise at a residence overlooking downtown Elko, Nev.



Flood traps elderly couple

An elderly man and woman stand in flood waters

awaiting rescue from emergency responders from the Guernsey County Sheriff's Office and Antrim Volunteer Fire Department near Cambridge, Ohio.



Under caution

Barry Rowland surrounds himself in caution tape as he repairs some of the carpet in the Chamber of the Texas Senate in Austin, Texas.

Parents take detention

TX PEARLAND — Susan and Steven Manis say it was their fault their daughter was late for school so they shared her punishment — spending an hour with her in detention.

The couple says their 13-year-old daughter, Jessica Dunkley, was being unfairly punished for being late six times in October and November when the family's van wouldn't start.

So when administrators insisted the Pearland Junior High School East seventh-grader would have to spend an hour in detention, they decided to go with her.

"We're more at fault than she is," said Susan Manis, who had appealed the decision.

Family gets settlement

NY ALBANY — The family of a 24-year-old engineer accidentally killed by police officers will receive \$1.3 million settlement from the city, the largest in its history. Mayor Jerry Jennings and the family of David Scaringe announced the agreement.

Scaringe was struck and killed by a stray bullet fired as officers chased a drunken driver on a busy Albany street on New Year's Eve 2003.

Students escape fire

TN NASHVILLE — Fire damaged a men's dormitory at Fisk University, spreading rapidly through the second floor after starting in a student's room. Assistant Fire Chief Kim Lawson said there were no injuries, largely because only about 20 students had returned from the holiday break. New Livingston Hall houses 150 students. There was no immediate indication how the fire began.

Hooker turns man in

FL HOLLYWOOD — A hooker turned in a customer after seeing child pornography, including a video of an apparent toddler rape, on the man's home computer, police said.

Detective Carlos Negron said police were contacted by the woman, saying that while working at the man's apartment as a prostitute she saw numerous pictures of children. The pictures appear to be between ages 3 and 16 performing sex.

The woman told police that it was a disturbing video that showed the rape of a younger child, perhaps no older than 2, that caused her to make the call after she left the apartment, the South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported.

Taxis earning more cash

NY NEW YORK — Taxi ridership has dipped slightly since fares rose last May, but drivers' revenues have risen, the Taxi and Limousine Commission said.

The average cab logged about two fewer miles a day between May and December last year than during the same period in 2003, the TLC said. The seven-month span also saw drivers' average daily revenue rise to \$314 a day, up from the 2003 average of \$263.

Fares rose an average of 26 percent as a result of the May 3 hike, which was meant to compensate for increased cost-of-living for drivers and the cost of installing new technologies.

Temple time line

HI HONOLULU — Ancient agricultural temples on two Hawaiian islands were likely built within a span of 60 years, possibly in one generation, not over several hundred years as was previously believed, according to a new study.

The report, published in the *Journal of Science*, says the temples likely were built during a construction boom on Maui and Molokai from 1580 to 1640 that suggests a rapid consolidation of two independent chiefdoms under one leader.

The new dates were determined by a technique that measures the amount of the element Thorium created by the decaying uranium found in the coral in the temple walls and platforms. The dates coincided with the formation of a single society under the reign of Pi'ilani.

Previously, the temples were dated between 1400 to 1800 from radiocarbon sampling of wood charcoal, the study said.

Accidental shooting

GA ATLANTA — Aimee Buff, 27, was celebrating the New Year with her fiancé at the Peach Drop in downtown Atlanta when she was hit by a bullet that went through her left ear and lodged in her neck.

She is the second woman shot during the celebrations. No arrests have been made. Police say arrests are difficult to make during such large celebrations.

Dad in penalty box

MA SWAMPSCOTT — A Swampscott man who allegedly put a choke hold on an 8-year-old boy following the boy's on-ice tangle with the man's son has been banned indefinitely from attending local youth hockey games.

Jordan Waldman, 51, also could face criminal charges for the Dec. 26 incident after a Salem-Swampscott Youth Hockey Association game against Masconomet.

Waldman allegedly cursed at and shook the boy, his 6-year-old son's teammate. The two boys shoved and elbowed each other as they came off the ice, said Mike Cheever, president of the Salem-Swampscott association.

Other parents intervened.

Pitfalls of cough syrup

CA SAN FRANCISCO — If you don't drink, don't mix. Even if it's only alcohol-based cough syrup you've sipped.

That was the message from a state appeals court, which this week upheld the one-year license suspension of a 16-year-old girl who was pulled over on a freeway and claimed she had imbibed only a capful of Robitussin.

The driver, Karli Ann Bobus, was stopped in November 2002 by a Highway Patrol officer, who said her car was weaving on the freeway. The officer said her eyes were bloodshot and her speech was slurred. Her blood-alcohol level measured 0.022 percent.

Her license was immediately suspended under a state "zero-tolerance" law that makes it illegal for anyone under 21 to drive with a blood-alcohol content of 0.01 percent or higher, compared with 0.08 percent for an adult.

Stories and photos from wire reports

FACES

Big-top debut for former guardsman

When asked to describe his new job as the newest ringmaster for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, Tyrone McFarlan's answer is short and sweet. "I'm Willy Wonka and I introduce people to this wonderful, magical world," McFarlan said.

McFarlan, 34, comes to the 135th edition of the "Great-est Show on Earth" with both musical theater and military experience. At age 16, he enlisted in the Army National Guard. McFarlan then completed advanced training while attending college and was ultimately promoted to the rank of captain.

But he's happy to trade his camouflage fatigues for jeweled jackets.

"Coming from a military background, I take pride in wearing a uniform," said McFarlan, who has three costume changes throughout the show. "I know that I'm not stepping into a character because this is not a character. It's something that comes over me."

McFarlan made his three-ring debut Wednesday in Tampa, Fla., but he's been rehearsing for his role as ringmaster for over a month.

McFarlan, a former license examiner and father of a three-year-old daughter, will rule the ring during the 21-city tour. He plans to frequently fly his daughter out for visits. And if he continues as ringmaster for another year, McFarlan might bring her along for the ride.

"I love what I'm doing," McFarlan said. "But with anything this great, there's always a sacrifice."



McFarlan

Royals help pack aid for tsunami victims

Princes William and Harry pitched in Friday to help survivors of the South Asia tsunami, packing aid to be sent to the region.

William, 22, and Harry, 20, sons of Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana, helped pack boxes of emergency supplies for the British Red Cross at a warehouse in Gloucestershire, England. The pair, along with other volunteers, unloaded pallets of toilet paper and shampoo that were packed with other toiletries into hygiene packs to be sent to the Maldives area.

Charles, who is a patron of the Red Cross, visited the group's London headquarters last week to support the relief operation.



Prince William

TV poker craze grows

Do you want Kennedy or Tom Leykis on the front line of the battle of the sexes? That's the choice the GSN network is offering. The former MTV personality and the radio personality will be co-hosts of "Poker Royale. Battle of the Sexes."

The latest twist in the trend of card-playing television is to match some of the world's best male and female poker players up against each other in a tournament. Paul Wolfe and Greg "Fossilman" Raymer are on the men's team, and Kathy Liebert and Evelyn Ng are among the female players.

Arnold impersonator gets TV role

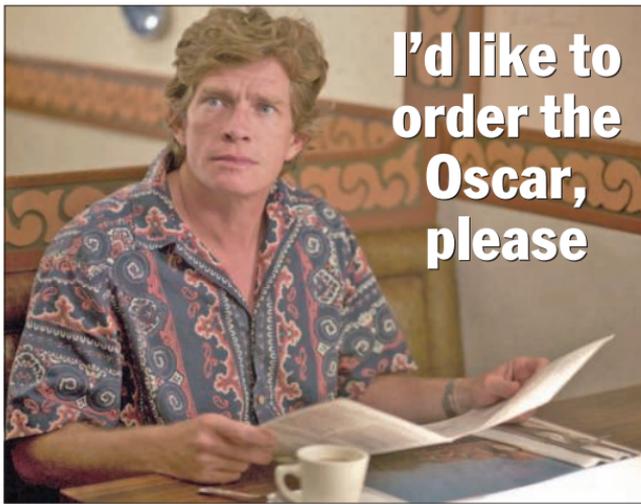
He's Austrian, he bears a striking resemblance to his hero and he's got bulging biceps he likes to call "my little Alps." Who better to call Arnold Schwarzenegger in a U.S. made-for-TV movie than actor Roland Kickinger?

Inspired by the Schwarzenegger film "Conan the Barbarian," Kickinger began bodybuilding at a gym in Vienna in the 1980s. Now he's starring as a young Schwarzenegger in "Arnold Run," a film being made by the cable channel A&E.

Kickinger, a former Mr. Austria, who says he befriended Schwarzenegger and has studied the California governor for years, told Austrian television Thursday it's a dream role.



Kickinger



I'd like to order the Oscar, please

FOX SEARCHLIGHT/AP

Actor Thomas Haden Church appears in a scene from the film "Sideways." Best-known for playing Lowell, the mechanic in the 1990s TV show "Wings," Church portrays a journeyman actor on a last fling before getting married.

Award buzz surrounds Thomas Haden Church for his role in acclaimed movie 'Sideways'

BY JAKE COYLE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK

In "Sideways," Jack, an out-of-work actor, explains to his friend, "There are things I have to do that you don't understand. You understand wine and literature and movies ... but you don't understand my plight."

The "plight" of Jack, played by Thomas Haden Church, is a premarital romp during a wine-tasting trip before his fateful wedding. But the story of Church's journey is not entirely different from Jack's.

Like the character he plays, Church is most famous for his work on older TV shows. He's probably most recognized as the guy who played Lowell, the deadpan mechanic in the NBC sitcom "Wings" (1990-97), before leaving to co-star opposite Debra Messing in the Fox series "Ned and Stacey" (1995-97).

But with "Wings" long behind him, Church is finally taking flight.

In Variety, Todd McCarthy wrote of Church: "Who ever expected the co-star of TV's 'Wings' and 'Ned and Stacey' to suddenly emerge as a riotous presence in a top indie-flavored picture?"

Nominated for a Golden Globe, Church has already been honored by the Los Angeles Film Critics Association for best supporting actor and appears a lock for an Academy Award nomination.

Praise for "Sideways" and others in its ensemble cast — Paul Giamatti, Virginia Madsen and Sandra Oh (director Alexander Payne's wife) — is just as loud. The film ranked in more than 50 critics' top 10 lists (including both Associated Press movie reviewers'). USA Today recently computed that based on the early season awards, "Sideways" is the odds-on favorite to win the best-picture Oscar.

While terms like "surprise" and "unlikely" get tossed around about both "Sideways" and its co-star, even Church, himself, was unsuspecting.

He says he chooses to do other things after the two TV series "because I had made enough money to be secure. I think in some way I was moving away from acting. By circumstance, you just kind of wave goodbye."

A Texas native, Church started out as a radio disc jockey

and voice-over announcer, a fitting occupation given his dead, animated voice. If pressed, he can still mock-announce the taglines of a few old radio stations.

After catching the acting bug in an independent movie, Church moved to Los Angeles and in 1990 was cast on "Wings." Along with "Ned and Stacey," the actor co-starred in the two "George of the Jungle" movies, which he did to make a few good flicks for the kids and "for a chunk of change."

While mixing in less memorable appearances in films, Church wrote and directed his first movie, "Rolling Kansas," a comedy about a road trip in search of a marijuana forest. Made independently, it played at the 2003 Sundance Film Festival but was not picked up for theatrical distribution.

For the last few years, the 43-year-old has spent less time in Hollywood, living with his wife and children on their Texas cattle ranch.

Enter Payne. The director was impressed by Church in auditions for his last two films: "Election" and "About Schmidt." He was close for the part in "Schmidt," but lost out to Dermot Mulroney in the role of Kathy Bates' brother. For the character of Jack in "Sideways," Payne thought about casting a big-name actor but didn't think the audience would buy a movie star playing a C-lister.

"He says in the movie 'I used to be in a couple of TV series, I write right now, I do mostly commercials,'" says Payne. "That's kind of what Tom has been doing recently. Yes, he directed a movie, 'Rolling Kansas' and also did 'George of the Jungle,' but his big things have been those TV series. I think about it every time I see that scene."

So will "Sideways" propel Church back into acting full time?

"I've been offered several movies since Toronto [Film Festival] but I didn't want to do any of them. If this is the last thing, that would be all right. I have no problem with 'Sideways' as the movie I come in known for."

Meantime, he makes a cameo in another movie in theaters now, "Spanglish."

The parallels between Church and Jack only go so far, though.

And Church certainly doesn't buy Jack's "plight" — that his womanizing will end when a ring is on his finger — "No leopard changes his spots in his early 40s."

Horoscope

The new moon in Capricorn is about as pragmatic as it gets. Capricorn energy rules the sky now, and the fluffy niceties of life have never seemed more irrelevant. Small talk, flattery and frivolity of every kind will be sacrificed to get to the heart of the matter. This is how we proceed quickly toward our goal. It's the perfect day to start a new project.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (January 10). You thrill to see the culmination of your seemingly diverse talents this year — pull all your resources into one beautiful vision. A self-realization process is building through this month and next. New mentors and honest friends around you will be key. Love also has much to teach you through the spring, but you must ask for what you need.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be judged by your conversation, so make sure it's "A-level" work. Being close to a gossipy co-worker is socially dangerous — this person's negativity could drag you down into a spiteful whirlpool. Keep your high integrity.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Yes, you're attractive — wildly so at times. But still, there are certain very unsexy aspects of your life that could use an update. Since internally, you're stepping into a sultry new role, your exterior world will change, too.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The stars shed a light on those gems in your life — the people whose dedication and loyalty make your way easier. Show your gratitude by taking special care of these folks, and they will sparkle accordingly.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). By all accounts, you should have the same concerns that plagued you yesterday, but now, somehow they don't seem so dire. Everywhere you go, you leave a path of sunshine in your wake.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Why is it that your so-called "time off" is often more draining than your "time

on"? Perhaps you feel you must perform for certain loved ones. What you really need is to be alone with your inspiration — just you and your virgo.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You could slunge on something ridiculous, like a gaudy chain of "bling." What you really crave is respect. It's more valuable than rubies, more substantial than diamonds and more affordable than cubic zirconium.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The crazies gravitate toward you. It's because you're the diplomatic leader, and they need you to show them how to get along. Some people's idea of compromise involves quarreling the other.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're bringing the best part of you to work. You're cheerful, and you give exuberance of yourself. Of course, you deserve a raise, but don't ask for it yet. Log in more brownie points first.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You keep thinking there's got to be a better way. Even if all you did today was transform, you'd be ahead of the game. Generic ideas get a mediocre response. Radical ideas get a radical response.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). What is effortless to you takes a heck of a lot of effort for somebody else. And the opposite is also true. So find the specialist who can take an arduous task off of your to-do list. Otherwise, you waste time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). In order to see magic around you, you have to first believe in it. There's no deep work to be done here — just make up your mind to think differently. Before you know it, you're enchanted by an otherworldly nymph.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're organized and smart. But making more money on the job depends more on your sense of political timing. It boils down to putting others first — thinking of the problem from your boss' point of view.

Creators Syndicate

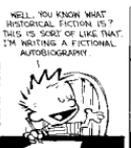
Holiday Mathis



Peanuts



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey

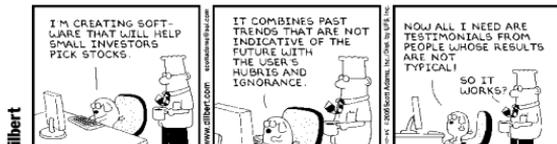


Red Rover



Better or Worse





Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11		12		13				14			
15				16				17			
18			19		20		21				
22		22		23		24			25	26	27
28	29	30			31		32				
33				34		35		36			
37				38		39		40			
41				42		43					
			44		45		46		47	48	49
50	51	52			53		54		55		
56					57				58		
59					60					61	

- Across**
- 1 African slitherer
 - 4 Charlotte's handwork
 - 7 Festive
 - 11 Bellow
 - 13 Timetable abbr.
 - 14 Lambs' dams
 - 15 Gift-bearing trio
 - 16 Addressee
 - 17 Automaker Ransom Eli —
 - 18 Mote
 - 20 Cicatrix
 - 22 Stashed
 - 24 O'Neill or Ionesco
 - 28 Resort area near Florida
 - 32 Annette's "American Beauty" co-star
 - 33 Winglyke
 - 34 Long March leader
 - 36 "How — be sure?"
 - 37 Nations
 - 39 Reacted to a pun
 - 41 Scatter about
 - 43 Prohibit
 - 44 Navigation hazard
 - 46 "Time —"
 - 50 Metro area
 - 53 Apprehend
 - 55 Desire
 - 56 Sandwich treat
 - 57 Sgt., for one
 - 58 Pianist Peter
 - 59 Sport
 - 60 Evergreen
 - 61 Pie ingredient?
- Down**
- 1 Weaponry
 - 2 Daytime drama
 - 3 Senate employee
 - 4 Method
 - 5 Cupid's counterpart
 - 6 See 42-Down
 - 7 Controversial comedian
 - 8 Puncturing tool
 - 9 Showed the way
 - 10 Ninny
 - 12 Controversial comedian
 - 19 Kipling hero
 - 21 Diving bird
 - 23 TVA structure
 - 25 Rock guitarist
 - 26 Cardinals or Blue Jays
 - 27 Oklahoma city
 - 28 Hairless
 - 29 Jal —
 - 30 A Katzenjammer kid
 - 31 Droop
 - 35 Scepter
 - 38 Witness
 - 40 Lumoux
 - 42 With 5-Down, controversial comedian
 - 45 Confront
 - 47 Detail
 - 48 House-paint shade
 - 49 Hot barefoot
 - 50 Intimidate
 - 51 Anger
 - 52 Caddy contents
 - 54 Acknowledge applause

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	T	E	E	L	M	O	R	S	E	
S	T	A	B	L	E	A	P	P	A	L
H	U	M	B	L	E	J	U	M	B	L
O	D	E	A	C	M	E	S	E	I	N
R	I	S	E	H	I	S	P	R	O	D
N	O	T	C	H	A	T	T	E	S	T
L	O	G	Y	E	A					
M	A	R	A	C	A	S	A	R	R	A
A	L	O	T	L	E	S	L	A	T	E
R	E	D	C	L	A	U	S	B	O	X
T	U	M	B	L	E	M	U	M	B	L
S	T	A	R	E	R	A	V	A	I	L
S	N	O	W	C	A	R	T	S		

1-10 CRYPTOQUIP

S I C F S R X K T M E X X Z K L
 Z P Z Z D X T F S I L R T I F T W C P Z X.
 M C S R T W W X K E S G G D
 G X W C I R C W S X U T U D.
Saturday's Cryptquip: AT THE PUB, BECAUSE WE LIKE THE CLASSIC SONGWRITER, WE ALL DRANK A COLD PORTER.
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: W equals L

Surgery should be individual choice

Dear Abby: My companion, "Sharon," and I are seniors and widowed. Sharon has an identical twin "Karen." The sisters had scheduled some cosmetic surgery, noting major — just a "nip" here and a "tuck" there.

Now Karen has informed Sharon that because of some sudden and unexpected financial difficulties, she's unable to go ahead with the surgery.

Sharon now feels that she should cancel her surgery because she's afraid they will no longer look alike, and she feels it would be unfair to Karen.

I am neutral. I find Sharon beautiful as she is.

However, I know that she is very disappointed. What do you or your identical twin readers think should Sharon have the surgery?

— In Love With Sharon

Dear in Love: In the era in

which your companion was raised, identical twins were encouraged to accentuate their similarities. (Thankfully, that practice has changed in recent decades, and twins are now encouraged to develop as individuals.) If identical twinning is important to Sharon, she should not have the surgery. It could make her feel guilty, and her twin felt abandoned. She is wise to carefully consider all the ramifications.

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: Please help me handle this mess. I have two daughters, "Rina" and "Diana," who are both in their 20s.

Diana, my younger daughter, has two children. She's constantly trying to push her little girls onto me while she works. I love them, but my health isn't all that great.

If I turn Diana down, she accuses me of not being a good mother or grandma.

When Rina and Diana argue, they constantly try to put me in the middle. They get angry at me when I refuse to take sides. Please help me. I can't watch my grandkids seven days a week, and I'm sick of being forced to interfere in my daughters' battles.

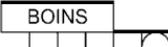
— Tired of Being a Pushover, Ridgeland, S.C.

Dear Pushover: Your health must come first. Unless you stand up for yourself, you'll get no respect from either of your daughters. You ARE a good mother — you raised the children you brought into this world. Now it's Diana's turn. Tell her plainly which days you are willing/able to watch your granddaughters and that she must make other arrangements the rest of the week. Do not waver and do not apologize. Because someone calls you a "bad mother" or "bad grandma" does not make you one.

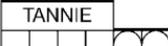
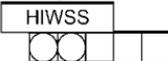
Letters for this column — with your return address — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uspspress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

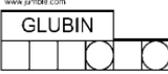
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



©2005 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



www.jumble.com



Print answer here:

“ ” (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's

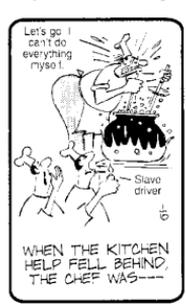
Jumbles:

JULEP PATIO BUSHEL TOUCHY

Answer:

How she felt when her cobble recipe won the blue ribbon — JUST 'PEACHY'

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirin



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Niece's lies soon will be revealed

Dear Annie: My brother's 9-year-old daughter, "Carrie," has a habit of exaggerating and stretching the truth. She's made up nasty rumors about members of our family several times. Carrie knows exactly what the sensitive topics are and how to strike a nerve. I've held my tongue before, but this time it's too much.

Carrie told her dad that my daughter pushed her on purpose and cursed at her. There were several other people present, and they all say nothing of the kind occurred. My daughter loves her cousin and would never hurt her.

My brother, of course, listened to Carrie, decided she was telling the truth and proceeded to confront my 12-year-old daughter without my knowledge. How can I convince my brother that his daughter is a liar?

— Anytown, USA

Dear Anytown: Don't try. Even if he believes you, he will defend his daughter and your efforts will

Annie's Mailbox



produce nothing but anger. In time, he will learn that her word is meaningless, but the damage will have been done. Meanwhile, make it clear that under no circumstances is he allowed to confront your daughter.

While many children tell small lies in order to get out of trouble or gain rewards, Carrie seems to do this for

sport. A child who lies continually and viciously is shamed by everyone.

Dear Annie: Our 4-year-old daughter's name is Arielle, with the accent on the last syllable, but a lot of people rename her Ariel, with the accent on the first syllable, like "The Little Mermaid."

If we wanted her to be called Ariel, we would have named her that.

When I enrolled Arielle in preschool, I wrote the correct pronunciation on her registration card, but both teachers insist on

calling her Ariel. I corrected them, nicely, but they became very defensive and said the name was too unusual to remember.

As a result of this constant mispronunciation, the children in my daughter's class call her Ariel. Arielle is shy and won't correct them. Should I tell Arielle not to respond when someone calls her Ariel?

— Tired of the Little Mermaid

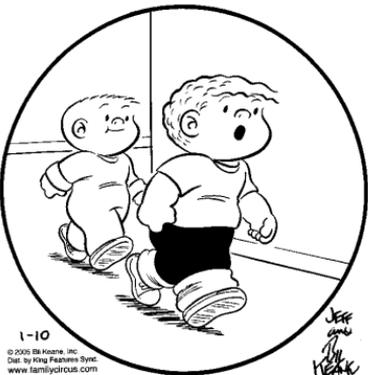
Dear Tired: Unusual names often are mispronounced by teachers, but there is no excuse for them to keep doing it after you have called it to their attention. Ask them once more, very politely, to call Arielle by her correct name. If they refuse, talk to the principal.

Keep in mind, this problem may occur every time Arielle has a new teacher, so show her how to correct someone politely.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox@comcast.net, or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

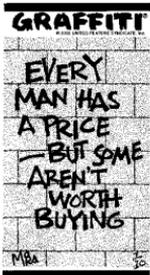
Family Circus



I-10

© 2005 by Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. www.familycircus.com

"PJ's following me, but I'm not going anywhere."



Dennis the Menace



© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Non Sequitur





your daily guide to navigating the European Business Market

FOR INFORMATION ON GROWING YOUR BUSINESS WITH THE SERVICE DIRECTORY
CONTACT SEAN ADAMS AT CIV: 06155-601203 or DSL: 349-8203
or EMAIL: adams@mail.estripes.osd.mil

STRIPES SERVICE DIRECTORY

Attorneys 686

FSL Attorney Joe Maisis
Full Service Law Firm
US & German Divorces
Employment & Personal Injury
Tax, Probate, Tenant/Landlord Disputes
email: maisis@hd-law.de
Office: Heidelberg Tel: 06221-727-9595

Guy L. Womack
Worldwide Court-Martial Defense
www.GuyWomack.com
e-mail: Guy.Womack@USA.net
Phone: (713) 244-8815

LAW OFFICES JOSEPH K. KELSO
U.S. Attorney at Law
Specializing since 1960 in U.S. Federal
Employment Law, Administrative Boards,
Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice, Tort
Claims, International Contracts and
Immigration Law.
Darmstädter Landstraße 181, 60388 Frankfurt am Main
Tel: (06180) 79 79 79 Fax: (06180) 79 96 22

GERMAN LAW FIRM
Frankfurt
Konstanze Salmen
International Family Law
Malpractice, Car Accidents
Phone: 06181-2702-28
E-mail: salmen@klopponline.de

www.court-martial-defense.com
What was YDC doing 25 years ago?
David Carter is a member of the Court-Martial
Law Offices David Court
Phone: (069) 30 10 72 Fax: (069) 30 12 69
David Court@T-online.de Frankfurt, Germany

Dental 902

BOTH OF THESE PEOPLE ARE STRATEGIZING THEIR TESTS
[MILITARY ORTHODONTISTS]
CALL TODAY 0700-00-BRACES (272237)
Winkler & Ewing Alignments Available
Meet Fees Significantly Less Than US Military
Headache Free Plan The Care Provider
Richard Billas, DDS - Certified Orthodontist
Former USAF - Officer of Maryland

Internet Services 600

Pisnet DSL and Call service now in Italy and Germany.
call us: 0621-790900 • DSL FLAT RATE
Fax us: 0621-790905 • SAME DAY ACTIVATION
e-mail: postoffice@pisnet.com • ALL SERVICES AND
SUPPORT IN ENGLISH
www.pisnet.com

INTERNET ACCESS
www.groennet.net
DSL Flat Rate €29.90/line
Unlimited Time & Volume or
Internet Dial Up Connection
Phone: 09731-2349

STANDARD ISSUE MEETS A NEW STANDARD

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper
Wherever You Go, We Go
estripes.osd.mil

Travel Agencies 1002

BOOK ONLINE
Don't like your Christmas gifts?
Buy after 10 January and give them back!
Boston 02011 0130
London 02071 0130
Moscow 075 0130
New York 0212 0130
Paris 01 47 0130
Rome 06 47 0130
Tokyo 03 47 0130
Washington 202 47 0130
*Home and international, covering 40 other major
regions, still faster in 2005, since 2004 50 days,
non-chargeable, non-refundable after departure
www.us-discount-travel.com
Call toll-free Heidelberg 06221-619357
K-Town 0631-370930
0800FLYUSA 06136-209320
Mo-Fr 9am - 10pm
Mo-Fr 9am - 6pm
Happy New Year from all
of us at US Discount Travel!

Discounted Seats to the States still available!
Call toll free 0800-5878359
Mo - Fr 09:00 - 18:00
Sa 09:00 - 13:00

ABC TRAVEL SERVICE REISEBÜRO
Danish Weddings EURAIL
Super Deals 1 for the price of 2 THE BEST WAY TO SEE EUROPE!
Sign up free www.abctravel.de
Discount Flight Fares Fly Now Pay Later
Rents a Car Helms/Kauf Train Tickets
Last Minute Specials City/Group Tours
Hotel Reservations Cruises & Ferry Tickets
ABC TRAVEL SERVICE 10719 Wilmshausen
Heidelberg, Germany Tel: 0621-7020-00
E-Mail: abc@abctravel.de

WHY PAY MORE!
We are offering special winter fares from 7 days & more from 6am-10pm
Please call ACS: 069 743 090 10

BANDWIDTH TRAVEL
A new company meeting all your airline travel needs.
Opening hours Mo-SA from 9am - 6pm
For Reservations Call: 06781 50 82 759

Mit Military Travel International
Over a million airfares worldwide
A million destinations
achieve flights 61 & 4347 Home
fax: 0611-906498 • e-mail: mit@mittravel.de
Call 06181-906498
Mon - Fri 9am - 4pm • Sat 11am - 3pm
www.mittravel.de

DISCOUNT FLIGHTS
Germany to/from U.S.A. - Payment Plan
American www.flyusave.com
Travel Center ph: 0180-5007427

Long Distance Service 660

What's your scene?
Buy Stripes this Sunday and every Sunday to get your scene!
Sign Up and get a *Free 800 Number from the US!
THE Lowest Phone Rates to the USA (48 States)
Germany 4.5 C To USA
Germany 26 C To USA
Italy 5.9 C To USA
On/Off Base Cellphones
KUWAIT Cell: 20c
Via DSN Opt: 5.9c
SPAIN: 7.9c
PORTUGAL: 9.9c
TURKEY: 29c
* By simply dialing your MilNet Cellphone 800 number + PIN, Friends and Family in the US can connect to you directly at a remarkably low rate! All your 800 calls are billed to your account!
Note: If a 24hr Toll Free Number is not listed for your location, please e-mail us for last call or sign up online at www.milnet.net
* Fast, Easy Sign Up 24 hrs!
* Credit Card / US Bank Debit!
* Estimated Monthly Billing!
* 24/7 Live Customer Support
CALL TOLL FREE 24 HRS
Germany 0-800-1826-224
Italy 800-872-532
Spain 900-961-259
US Direct 1-402-392-7513
E-mail info@milnet.net

Transportation 944

INTERGLOBAL Shipping GmbH
Specialized Shipping to/from the US & Canada
Avis, Hertz, Avis, Personal Belongings
Contact your Pin# at the Docks today!
info@interglobalshipping.de
Tel (0421) 340650 Fax (0421) 340655

WORLDWIDE SHIPPING AGENCY
Specializes in PCS without STRESS!
Ship Car/Containers to/from USA
We are your web site for ALL the Low Cost Import/Export
www.worldwide-ship.de
061-50551-Genoa 061-50551-USA

Tax Assistance 940

H&R BLOCK
Sure, you could get your refund faster. When the IRS gets a drive-thru. File electronically with our Rapid Refund service and get your refund in half the time.
Rudolf-Diesel Str 9 33394 Geseke
Tel: 0641-946608
Aach/Laubbacher Str 65 64857 Minfeld
Tel: 0611-514779 / 514780
Landshuter Str 63 66073 Barmstedt
Tel: 0671-617411
Aach/Laubbacher Str 159b 64858 Dornsdorf
Tel: 0611-469520

MLP Financial Advisor
Property in Germany
Use your housing allowance
High quality townhouses on reasonable lots in the Heidelberg area
* Build your financial freedom today
* Expert financial consultation
Phone: 0621-127 12 58

Financial Services 904

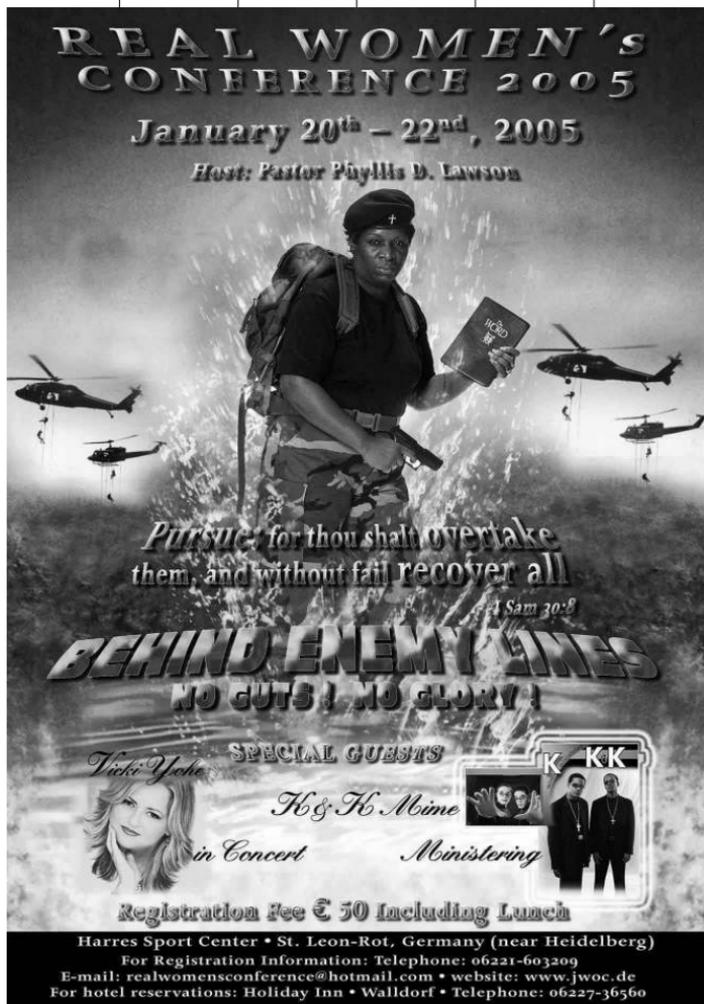
LOANS
Active Duty & Retired Military GS-5 & Above
Call-Fax-Email for IMMEDIATE SERVICE \$700 - \$15,000
USLOANS
Build your financial freedom today
For E-Z Online Service, Visit Our Website at www.USLoans.cc
Tel: (049) 08371-71222 or Fax: (0671)-2633
E-Mail: USLoans@americas1@aol.com
Toll Free Tel: 0800-USA-Loans (875-6207)
Hours: Mon-Fri 0900-1800, Saturday by appointment
enquiries: Leading American Military Lenders

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Standard Issue Meets A New Standard ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Now Stars and Stripes newspaper is also available electronically.
Get your copy for FREE at estripes.osd.mil

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper
Wherever You Go, We Go.

STRIPES CLASSIFIED

**REAL WOMEN'S
CONFERENCE 2005**
January 20th - 22nd, 2005
Host: Pastor Phyllis D. Lawson



*Pursue: for thou shalt overtake
them, and without fail recover all.*
— 1 Sam 30:8

BEHIND ENEMY LINES
NO CUTS! NO GLORY!

Victor Yohn **SPECIAL GUESTS**
H&H Mine *Ministering*

in Concert

Registration fee € 50 including lunch

Harres Sport Center • St. Leon-Rot, Germany (near Heidelberg)
For Registration Information: Telephone: 06221-603209
E-mail: realwomensconference@hotmail.com • website: www.jwoc.de
For hotel reservations: Holiday Inn • Walldorf • Telephone: 06227-36560

What's
your
scene?

Buy
Stripes this
Sunday
and every
Sunday to
get your
scene!

MOVIES

MUSIC

FOOD

TRAVEL

**HEALTH &
FITNESS**

CROSSWORDS



STARS AND STRIPES.
Your Hometown Newspaper



Read Stripes online at

www.stripes.com

STARS AND STRIPES.
Your Hometown Newspaper

11 Gonzaga wrong end of upset this time

The Associated Press

MORAGA, Calif. — Paul Mari-gora scored 30 points with a career-high seven three-pointers and Saint Mary's hit a school-record 16 threes to shock No. 11 Gonzaga 89-81 on Saturday night in a matchup of the West Coast Conference's top teams.

Daniel Kickert added 17 points with four free throws in the final minute, and E.J. Rowland had a career-high 12 assists for the Gaels, who extended their home winning streak to 11 games by ending a 17-game losing streak to their conference nemesis — Gonzaga's longest streak against any WCC opponent.

Hundreds of students dressed in red stormed the court when the final buzzer sounded, and the defeated Bulldogs made a quick exit.

Gonzaga (11-3, 1-1 WCC) had won 17 straight WCC games dating to a 72-68 loss to Portland on Feb. 19, 2003, but got outshouted most of the night by the inspired and feisty Gaels.

Saint Mary's (14-4, 2-0), picked to finish second in the conference to the Zags, won its eighth straight game and first against Gonzaga since a 76-73 victory at home on Jan. 22, 1998. The Zags won all three meetings last season, including an 84-71 victory for the WCC tournament title.

A sellout crowd of more than 3,500 was on hand to witness the thriller in at the Edgemoor Pavilion, where another few hundred fans lined the stairwells and upper-level walkways.

No. 4 Wake Forest 103, Clemson 82 at Clemson, S.C. Justin Gray tied his career high with 31 points to help the Demon Deacons (13-1, 2-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) win their eighth in a row.

Gray scored 25 points in the first half and finished 10-for-10 from the field. Eric Williams added 21 points for Wake Forest.

Akin Akingbala led the Tigers (9-5, 0-2) with a career-high 16 points.

No. 5 Duke 82, Temple 74: At Durham, N.C., Daniel Ewing and J.J. Redick proved to be the perfect matchup for Temple's vault-

Men's Top 25

ed zone, combining for 46 points and nine three-pointers to lead the Blue Devils in the matchup of Hall of Fame coaches Mike Krzyzewski and John Chaney.

Ewing finished with 24 points and Redick scored 22 for Duke (11-0). Shelden Williams added 10.

Mardy Collins scored 23 points and Dustin Salisbury had a career-high 21 for the Owls (5-6).

Krzyzewski improved to 7-1 against Chaney, including wins in the last five matchups. The coaches were inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame together in 2001, and are two of the most effective coaches with at least 700 victories.

No. 6 Syracuse 75, Seton Hall 50: At Syracuse, N.Y., Gerry McNamara scored 23 points and the Orange defense clamped down on the Pirates' top scorers.

Hakim Warrick had 14 points and nine rebounds and Craig Forth scored 10 points for the Orange (15-1, 2-0 Big East), who held the Pirates (8-5, 0-2) to 35.8 percent shooting.

No. 7 Oklahoma State 76, Texas Tech 66: At Lubbock, Texas, Zev Anderson had 25 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Cowboys, and John Lucas (20 points) hit six three-pointers in the victory over the Red Raiders.

In the Big 12 opener for both teams, the Cowboys (11-1) used an 18-6 run to take a 60-53 lead with 8:24 remaining. Graham had four points, and his brother, Stephen, had 10 during the run.

No. 9 Georgia Tech 92, Virginia 69: At Atlanta, Jarrett Jack scored 22 points and several unassisted dunks made big contributions for the Yellow Jackets (11-2, 2-0 Atlantic Coast Conference).

Senior Anthony McHenry, the lowest-scoring starter, tied his career high with 13 points and had three blocks. Freshmen Ra'Sean Dickey and Anthony Morrow also scored 12 points apiece for the Yellow Jackets, who were playing without injured star B.J. Elder.



Gonzaga's Dan Grunfeld, bottom, fights for the ball against St. Mary's E.J. Rowland, in the second half Saturday in Moraga, Calif. St. Mary's won 89-81.

No. 10 Connecticut 66, Georgetown 59: At Washington, Charlie Villanueva had 19 points and 13 rebounds to lead a dominating inside game. Denham Brown scored a season-high 19 points, and the Huskies (9-2, 1-1) rebounded from a surprise loss in their Big East opener.

Connecticut, stunned at home by Boston College on Wednesday, built a 20-point halftime lead by simply throwing the ball toward the basket and letting its big men go after it.

The Hoyas (9-4, 1-1) trailed by 22 early in the second half, then cut the lead to six with an 18-4 run that included three double-digit lead with 2:53 to play.

UCIA 95, No. 12 Washington 86: At Los Angeles, Dijon Thomp-

son scored 29 points and the Bruins (9-3, 3-1 Pac-10) rallied from a 21-point first-half deficit to snap the Huskies' (13-2, 3-1) nine-game winning streak.

Steve Robinson led the Huskies with 21 points before fouling out with 20 seconds left. Tre Simmons added 19 points.

The Huskies extended their futility at Pauley Pavilion, where they are 2-4 since the building opened in 1965.

Stanford 87, No. 13 Arizona 76: At Stanford, Calif., Dan Grunfeld scored six straight points during a decisive second-half run and finished with a career-high 29 to help the Cardinal (7-7, 1-3 Pac-10) snap Arizona's (12-3, 2-1) nine-game winning streak.

Chris Hernandez, the Cardinal's starting point guard, returned to the lineup after missing Thursday's game against Arizona State with back spasms and scored 23 in his team's best showing yet under first-year coach Trent Johnson.

Channing Frye had 20 points and 13 rebounds to lead Arizona, and Hassan Adams added 19 points and 10 boards.

Ohio St. 81, No. 14 Iowa 69: At Columbus, Ohio, Terence Dials scored 22 points and Tony Stockman added 19 in the Buckeyes' (12-3, 1-1) win, dropping the Hawkeyes (12-3) to 0-2 in the Big Ten for the first time in 11 years.

No. 16 Pittsburgh 66, Rutgers 63 (OT): At Piscataway, N.J., Freshman Ronald Ramon scored a career-high 21 points to help the Panthers (11-2, 1-1 Big East) end their two-game losing streak.

Ramon looked like he would be the hero in regulation when his three-pointer with 7.6 seconds left gave the Panthers a 58-55 lead. But Ricky Shields hit a three from the left side with 4.0 seconds left to give the Scarlet Knights (6-5, 0-1) to force overtime.

Pitt, which had been ranked as high as No. 10 and was coming off home losses to Bucknell and Georgetown, took the lead for good at 64-63 on a drive by Antonio Graves with 41 seconds to play in overtime.

No. 17 Louisville 86, TCU 61: At Louisville, Ky., freshman Juan Palacios scored 23 points and

Francisco Garcia added 21 for the Cardinals (12-3, 3-1 Conference USA).

Nile Murry had 15 points and eight rebounds for TCU (10-5, 0-1), while Evan had a four-game winning streak snapped.

No. 18 Mississippi State 87, Mississippi 76: At Oxford, Miss., Lawrence Roberts scored 23 points and Gary Ervin added 15 for the Bulldogs (14-2, 2-0 SEC), who shot nearly 57 percent from the field in winning their NCAA-best 16th straight road game.

No. 19 Alabama 73, LSU 58: At Tuscaloosa, Ala., Kennedy Winston scored 21 points and the Crimson Tide (12-3, 1-1 Southeastern Conference) held the Tigers (6-5, 0-1) without a point for nearly 9 minutes in the second half.

No. 20 Michigan St. 87, Northwestern 58: At East Lansing, Mich., Maurice Ager scored 18 points and Paul Davis had 17 as the Spartans (10-2, 2-0 Big Ten) won their seventh straight.

No. 21 West Virginia 64, St. John's 60: At Morgantown, W.Va., D'Or Fischer had 18 points and three blocks as the Mountaineers (11-1, 1-1 Big East) rebounded from their worst loss in six seasons.

No. 23 Cincinnati 69, Saint Louis 53: At St. Louis, Armein Kirkland scored 22 points, and Jason Maxwell added 17 and grabbed nine rebounds for the Bearcats (13-1, 2-0 Conference USA).

No. 24 George Washington 81, Delaware 57: At Pittsburgh, Mike Hall scored 19 points and T.J. Thompson added 17 as the Colonials (10-2, 2-0 Atlantic 10) withstood a sluggish second half to beat the Dukes (4-11, 1-1).

No. 25 Boston College 69, Providence 60: At Boston, Sean Williams had career highs of 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Craig Smith had 18 points and 13 rebounds to help the Eagles (13-0, 2-0 Big East) extend their school-record start.

The Eagles, one of four remaining unbeaten teams in Division I, had never opened the season with 13 wins and have not won 13 straight since a record 19-game winning streak in 1968-69.

Air Force wins 21st straight at home

The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Antoine Hood scored 24 points as Air Force overcame poor shooting withounding defense to win its 21st straight home game, a 58-53 victory over Colorado State on Saturday in the Mountain West Conference opener for both teams.

Air Force (10-5) shot just 35 percent and was 3-for-23 from three-point range, making up for it by pressuring the Rams and hitting shots and turnovers. Matt McGraw and Nick Welch led with 13 points each.

Colorado State (8-6), playing without No. 2 scorer Matt Williams' season, was plagued by turnovers in the first half and poor shooting in the second to lose its 14th straight road game. Matt Nel-

Service academies

son had 21 points and Dwight Boatner added 14 for the Rams, who were 1-for-14 on three-pointers and had 12 turnovers.

Lafayette 90, Navy 80: At Easton, Pa., Jamaal Douglas scored 18 points and 17 rebounds, but four other Lafayette players were in double figures as the Leopards beat the Midshipmen.

Andre Capusan scored 16 points for Lafayette (5-8, 1-0 Patriot League), while Bilal Abdullah had 15 and Jamaal Hilliard and Sean Knitter each contributed 12.

Greg Spink led Navy (4-9, 0-1) with a career-high 22 points and Corey Johnson added 16.

Colgate 60, Army 56: At Hamilton, N.Y., sophomore Jon Simon scored 17 points to lead the Raiders to a victory over the Black Knights.

Dan Gentile added nine points for Colgate (5-8, 1-0) while Kyle Roemer and Andrew Zidar both got eight in the Patriot League opener for both teams.

The loss was the fifth straight for Army (2-12, 0-1).

Colgate held a 51-41 lead with 12:32 left in the game before Army was able to cut the deficit to one, 54-53, with 5:11 remaining.

Trailing by two, Army's Cory Sinning missed missed a layup with 51 seconds left. Before Army grabbed the rebound and sealed the win for the Raiders with a layup with 19 seconds left.

THE **TIRE RACK**
www.tirerack.com

The Tire Rack's Tire Decision Guide

Use our Tire Decision Guide to find the tire that is the best fit for your vehicle, your driving style and the conditions in which you drive.

- Select your vehicle
- Answer five quick questions
- See the tire performance categories that are right for you

When should tires be replaced?

Using the change in your pocket, you can check the remaining tread depth in your tires to see if the wear is at optimum or critical levels.

www.tirerack.com/News/NewsCenter/questionnaire.jsp

750 Valley Parkway
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
©2005 The Tire Rack



www.tirerack.com
1-877-2710
FAX 908-582-2222



Mavericks score Pacers with 77-71 final

BY JAIMIE ARON

The Associated Press

DALLAS — The Dallas Mavericks were waiting to find out whether their recent offensive roll was for real. Even after playing the Indiana Pacers, they were still waiting.

The Mavs made a franchise-best 74.3 percent of their shots in the first half, then cruised to a 121-101 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Saturday night. Dirk Nowitzki led the way with 34 points and 13 rebounds and Michael Finley added a season-high 33.

The game was so lopsided so quickly that it probably took more about Indiana than it did about Dallas. Still, the Mavericks were quite impressive in making 26 of 35 shots in the first two quarters. They

scored 77 first-half points against a team that's allowed 77 or less in two full games this season.

"I'm a little bit surprised we were able to do that," Dallas coach Don Nelson said. "Sometimes it's not the shots you make but the shots you get. Well, we took high-percentage shots for us and made them, and some of the contested shots we made, too."

The Mavs have won five straight, their longest streak of the season, and they're 7 since Jason Terry became the starting point guard. They're averaging more than 110 points per game in that span and have hit 120 three times. All seven wins have been by at least 14 points.

Nowitzki, however, was among those questioning the legitimacy of those numbers because they came against teams at or below .500.

While the Pacers (16-15) are in that category, too, they were considered the best test yet because of their defense and how well they've been playing. Jermaine O'Neal returned from a suspension.

Instead, Indiana showed how badly it misses Ron Artest, last year's defensive player of the year who is suspended the rest of this season for his role in the brawl with Detroit fans.

"We're not at full strength, but we still have enough to play at a high level," said O'Neal, who scored 32. "They got out and played extremely well in the transition game. I don't take anything away from them. They have a lot of talented players."

The jump-shooting Mavericks scored on 24 of their first 30 possessions, including nine straight that ended with Nowitzki

making a four-point play that gave Dallas a 23-point lead with 8:33 left in the first half.

"Our defense wasn't there at all," guard Reggie Miller said.

The Pacers ended up allowing their most points since a 122-111 loss to Memphis on March 7, 2002. They also lost for the second time in Phoenix, losing 117-109 in a row and fell to 3-8 against the West after going an East-West 20-8 against the conference last season.

The Pacers' first shot up their defense quickly because two of their next three games are against the Suns, the league's highest-scoring team, starting Sunday night in Phoenix.

"We have a chance to get this out of our system and play a better game," coach Rick Carlisle said. "We don't have a lot of time to learn this loss."

Arenas lifts Wizards to fourth straight win

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Gilbert Arenas scored seven of his season-high 40 points in the final 20 to lead the Washington Wizards to their fourth consecutive victory, 117-114 over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Saturday night.

Larry Hughes had 28 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists for the Wizards, and for 19-13 are off to their best start in 20 seasons. Antonio Jamison added 23 points and 10 rebounds for Washington.

Kevin Garnett, who finished with 25 points and 19 rebounds, scored 12 in the fourth quarter and gave the Timberwolves a 112-106 lead on a turnaround jumper with 2:02 remaining. But the Timberwolves couldn't close out the Wizards and lost their seventh consecutive road game.

The Wizards pulled to 114-113 on Arenas' three-pointer and two free throws by Jamison with 1:12 left.

Arenas made two free throws that gave Washington a 115-114 lead with 27.4 seconds left.

Cavaliers 104, Knicks 79: LeBron James hit his first eight shots and scored 22 points to power Cleveland to its third straight victory.

James, in his fifth game wearing a clear mask to protect a broken left cheekbone, played only 33 minutes and shot 10-for-14 from the field.

Lucious Harris scored a season-high 16 points as Cleveland had five players in double figures when he moved to 15-3 at home, 20-12 overall.

Tim Thomas scored 17 points for New York, which dropped under 500 (16-17) with its fourth consecutive loss.

Spurs 99, Nuggets 90: In San Antonio, Bruce Bowen held Carmelo Anthony in check and made three three-pointers in the fourth quarter to help the Spurs hand Denver its ninth loss in 10 games.

Anthony, who entered the game averaging a team-leading 21.7 points, was limited to eight points on 4-for-15 shooting. He sat out the rest of the third quarter with foul trouble while the Nuggets rallied to pull to 72-68.



Manu Ginobili scored 22 points for San Antonio, while Tony Parker had 20 and Tim Duncan 19.

Magic 104, Nets 101: In Orlando, Dwight Howard scored 22 points, and the Magic won their third straight by holding off New Jersey's frantic comeback.

The Nets, trailing by 19 early in the fourth quarter, cut the deficit to two with 10 seconds remaining on Jason Kidd's fourth three-pointer of the period.

Kidd had 22 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists for his first triple-double of the season and 60th of his career.

After the Nets fouled, Cutino Mobley's free throws put the Magic back up by four. He made six foul shots in the final 26 seconds to finish with 19 points.

Hornets 121, Kings 117 (OT): Baron Davis had his first triple-double in more than two seasons, helping the Hornets end their 10-game losing streak with an overtime victory over visiting Sacramento.

Davis scored 26 points, tied a career high with 17 assists and grabbed his 10th rebound late in overtime to ice the Hornets' third win in the game.

Bulls 102, Celtics 91: In Chicago, Kirk Hinrich scored 22 points and tied a career high with 14 assists to ice the Bulls to their ninth win in 12 games.

Othella Harrington, in a rare start, matched a season high with 19 points on 9-for-12 shooting and grabbed a season-high 10 rebounds for the Bulls, who surged ahead with a 13-0 third-quarter run.

Suns 108, Clippers 91: Joe Johnson scored 29 points and 11 Phoenix matched its 33rd game of last season after just 33 games with a rout of the Clippers.

Shawn Marion had 22 points and 11 rebounds for the visiting Suns, who have won five straight and 25 of 27. They led the league with a 29-4 record, the best start in an 82-game 7-year history.

Last season Phoenix went 29-53, its third-worst record.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
1	1	50.0	0
2	1	50.0	0
3	1	33.3	1.5
4	1	33.3	1.5
5	1	33.3	1.5
6	1	33.3	1.5
7	1	33.3	1.5
8	1	33.3	1.5
9	1	33.3	1.5
10	1	33.3	1.5
11	1	33.3	1.5
12	1	33.3	1.5
13	1	33.3	1.5
14	1	33.3	1.5
15	1	33.3	1.5
16	1	33.3	1.5
17	1	33.3	1.5
18	1	33.3	1.5
19	1	33.3	1.5
20	1	33.3	1.5
21	1	33.3	1.5
22	1	33.3	1.5
23	1	33.3	1.5
24	1	33.3	1.5
25	1	33.3	1.5
26	1	33.3	1.5
27	1	33.3	1.5
28	1	33.3	1.5
29	1	33.3	1.5
30	1	33.3	1.5
31	1	33.3	1.5
32	1	33.3	1.5
33	1	33.3	1.5
34	1	33.3	1.5
35	1	33.3	1.5
36	1	33.3	1.5
37	1	33.3	1.5
38	1	33.3	1.5
39	1	33.3	1.5
40	1	33.3	1.5
41	1	33.3	1.5
42	1	33.3	1.5
43	1	33.3	1.5
44	1	33.3	1.5
45	1	33.3	1.5
46	1	33.3	1.5
47	1	33.3	1.5
48	1	33.3	1.5
49	1	33.3	1.5
50	1	33.3	1.5
51	1	33.3	1.5
52	1	33.3	1.5
53	1	33.3	1.5
54	1	33.3	1.5
55	1	33.3	1.5
56	1	33.3	1.5
57	1	33.3	1.5
58	1	33.3	1.5
59	1	33.3	1.5
60	1	33.3	1.5
61	1	33.3	1.5
62	1	33.3	1.5
63	1	33.3	1.5
64	1	33.3	1.5
65	1	33.3	1.5
66	1	33.3	1.5
67	1	33.3	1.5
68	1	33.3	1.5
69	1	33.3	1.5
70	1	33.3	1.5
71	1	33.3	1.5
72	1	33.3	1.5
73	1	33.3	1.5
74	1	33.3	1.5
75	1	33.3	1.5
76	1	33.3	1.5
77	1	33.3	1.5
78	1	33.3	1.5
79	1	33.3	1.5
80	1	33.3	1.5
81	1	33.3	1.5
82	1	33.3	1.5
83	1	33.3	1.5
84	1	33.3	1.5
85	1	33.3	1.5
86	1	33.3	1.5
87	1	33.3	1.5
88	1	33.3	1.5
89	1	33.3	1.5
90	1	33.3	1.5
91	1	33.3	1.5
92	1	33.3	1.5
93	1	33.3	1.5
94	1	33.3	1.5
95	1	33.3	1.5
96	1	33.3	1.5
97	1	33.3	1.5
98	1	33.3	1.5
99	1	33.3	1.5
100	1	33.3	1.5

Western Conference

Southwest Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
1	1	50.0	0
2	1	50.0	0
3	1	33.3	1.5
4	1	33.3	1.5
5	1	33.3	1.5
6	1	33.3	1.5
7	1	33.3	1.5
8	1	33.3	1.5
9	1	33.3	1.5
10	1	33.3	1.5
11	1	33.3	1.5
12	1	33.3	1.5
13	1	33.3	1.5
14	1	33.3	1.5
15	1	33.3	1.5
16	1	33.3	1.5
17	1	33.3	1.5
18	1	33.3	1.5
19	1	33.3	1.5
20	1	33.3	1.5
21	1	33.3	1.5
22	1	33.3	1.5
23	1	33.3	1.5
24	1	33.3	1.5
25	1	33.3	1.5
26	1	33.3	1.5
27	1	33.3	1.5
28	1	33.3	1.5
29	1	33.3	1.5
30	1	33.3	1.5
31	1	33.3	1.5
32	1	33.3	1.5
33	1	33.3	1.5
34	1	33.3	1.5
35	1	33.3	1.5
36	1	33.3	1.5
37	1	33.3	1.5
38	1	33.3	1.5
39	1	33.3	1.5
40	1	33.3	1.5
41	1	33.3	1.5
42	1	33.3	1.5
43	1	33.3	1.5
44	1	33.3	1.5
45	1	33.3	1.5
46	1	33.3	1.5
47	1	33.3	1.5
48	1	33.3	1.5
49	1	33.3	1.5
50	1	33.3	1.5
51	1	33.3	1.5
52	1	33.3	1.5
53	1	33.3	1.5
54	1	33.3	1.5
55	1	33.3	1.5
56	1	33.3	1.5
57	1	33.3	1.5
58	1	33.3	1.5
59	1	33.3	1.5
60	1	33.3	1.5
61	1	33.3	1.5
62	1	33.3	1.5
63	1	33.3	1.5
64	1	33.3	1.5
65	1	33.3	1.5
66	1	33.3	1.5
67	1	33.3	1.5
68	1	33.3	1.5
69	1	33.3	1.5
70	1	33.3	1.5
71	1	33.3	1.5
72	1	33.3	1.5
73	1	33.3	1.5
74	1	33.3	1.5
75	1	33.3	1.5
76	1	33.3	1.5
77	1	33.3	1.5
78	1	33.3	1.5
79	1	33.3	1.5
80	1	33.3	1.5
81	1	33.3	1.5
82	1	33.3	1.5
83	1	33.3	1.5
84	1	33.3	1.5
85	1	33.3	1.5
86	1	33.3	1.5
87	1	33.3	1.5
88	1	33.3	1.5
89	1	33.3	1.5
90	1	33.3	1.5
91	1	33.3	1.5
92	1	33.3	1.5
93	1	33.3	1.5
94	1	33.3	1.5
95	1	33.3	1.5
96	1	33.3	1.5
97	1	33.3	1.5
98	1	33.3	1.5
99	1	33.3	1.5
100	1	33.3	1.5

Northwest Division

1	1	50.0	0
2	1	50.0	0
3	1	33.3	1.5
4	1	33.3	1.5
5	1	33.3	1.5
6	1	33.3	1.5
7	1	33.3	1.5
8	1	33.3	1.5
9			

Singh hangs on as showdown looms in Maui

By DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

KAPALUA, Maui — Vijay Singh heard cheers at every corner Saturday in the Mercedes Championships, and all he could muster were mostly pars. He finally answered with one shot that salvaged the day.

Singh hit a 5-wood from 248 yards within 10 feet on the par-5 15th for an eagle, allowing him to shoot a 4-under 69 and hold off Jonathan Kaye and Ernie Els heading into the final round of the season-opening tournament.

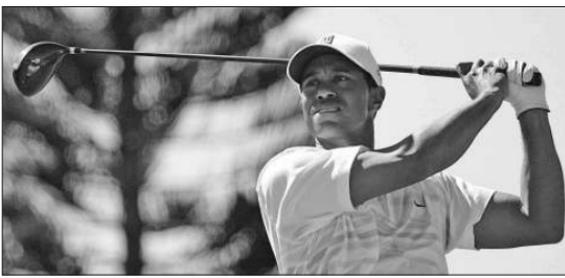
"It came out absolutely perfect," Singh said. "I couldn't hit it any better."

He was at 19-under 200, in good shape to become the first wire-to-wire winner of the winners-only Mercedes Championships since it moved to Kapalua in 1999.

Kaye birdied six of his final eight holes for a 66 and was at 201, while Els finally got out of a funk from a bad bogey at No. 9 to shoot a 68, leaving him two shots behind.

Still, it all comes down to Singh. Coming off a nine-win season, the 41-year-old Fijian can make an early statement about his No. 1 ranking with a victory Sunday in what is expected to be wet, windy weather. Singh has won the last 11 times when he has had at least a share of the 54-hole lead, dating to the 2001 MCI Classic.

"He's on a roll like probably only two or three guys in history have ever been on," said Stewart Cink, who shot a 67 and was three strokes behind. "He's going to be tough to catch. I don't even know



Tiger Woods tees off from the third tee box during the third round of the Mercedes Championships on Saturday at the Kapalua Plantation Course in Kapalua, Hawaii. Woods was five strokes behind leader Vijay Singh.

what he is (under par) right now, but I'm sure we can wait five minutes and it will be better."

Not quite.

Singh had 15 pars — his other two holes were a simple up-and-down birdie on No. 9 and a wedge to 2 feet on No. 6 — and realized he wasted a good chance to expand his lead.

"It's a disappointing 4 under, but I'll take it," he said. "I'm still in the lead."

Tiger Woods threw three shots away late in his round — a 2-iron into the waist-high weeds on No. 15 that he never found, and a driver off the 17th hole that went 370 yards, through the fairway, the rough and into his hazard.

"The book says it's 370 yards

to the hazard," Woods said. "I didn't think I could hit it that far."

He wound up with a 69 and was five shots behind.

Defending champion Stuart Appleby, who opened with a 74, got into the hunt with rounds of 64-66 and was four shots behind along with Mike Weir (71).

It was shaping up to a dynamic conclusion along the rugged coast of Maui, and an intriguing start to the year.

Six players were within five shots of Singh on a course where, as the third round proved, anyone can get it going and one hole can change things in a hurry.

But there is a game in the wind.

A spectacular day on Maui is

expected to give way to heavy rain and Kona wind from the opposite direction, making the Plantation play its toughest. Starting times were moved up some five hours for the final round.

"Quite a few guys can come into it," Els said. "I'm happy to be in the final group."

Kaye played with Singh in the opening round, with Woods on Friday and spent the third round with Els, a good chance for him to see how his game stacks up with the Big Three.

Kaye finished with a flurry, starting with an 8-foot birdie putt on No. 11 and making all of his closing birdies from inside that range. Kaye is the only player among the top seven ranked out

of the top 15, but he looks as though he's capable of winning at Kapalua.

"It would be great to this opener," he said. "You could take the rest of the year off."

Els wasn't the least bit daunted seeing Singh atop the leaderboard through two rounds, and he showed why. He started out with a couple of 20-foot birdie putts, then stuffed a wedge inside 4 feet on the third for his third straight birdie to the Singh.

And when the Big Easy two-putted for birdie on the par-5 fifth — with Singh making nothing but pars behind him — Els had the lead in himself and was cruising right along.

But all that work came undone on one hole.

He pulled his approach into an awkward lie in the bunker on the par-5 ninth and took two shots to get out, making bogey on one of the easiest holes at Kapalua. That was like pissing two shots in the field, and Singh came through with a chip to 4 feet for birdie to restore his two-stroke margin.

Woods, meanwhile, had a meltdown after more putting problems. He missed from 10 feet on No. 3 and cursed, from 8 feet on No. 4. He was pissing two shots, then compounded matters — with a three-putt par from 35 feet on the fifth. When his 10-foot birdie on the hole he took turned away, Woods came undone.

Holding his putter by its head, he took a full swing into the side of his bag — forward, then backward. He threw a tantrum in front of his driver and threw that to the ground. And after a big tee shot, he smacked his driver into the cart path.

Moya donates winnings to tsunami aid

The Associated Press

MADRAS, India — Top-seeded Carlos Moya of Spain retained the ATP Tour's Chennai Open title by defeating Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (5) on Sunday in a repeat of last year's final.

World fifth-ranked Moya, 28, became the first player to successfully defend the title since the tournament's inception in 1996. Moya, the 1998 French Open champion, rallied from the brink of defeat at 2-5 in the deciding third set as he broke Paradorn twice and then clinched the title through a tiebreaker for the second consecutive year.

"I was extremely lucky to win today — Never in my previous 17 title victories did I feature in a final where I came back from 2-5 in the decider set," said Moya, who later donated the winner's purse of \$52,000 toward the relief operation for victims of the Dec. 26 tsunami that claimed more than 150,000 lives.

One of the three season-launching tournaments, the Chennai Open kept its date with the ATP Tour even though the tsunami killed several hundred people along the city's coastline.

"I'm donating the entire prize money from this tournament for tsunami victims, hoping it makes

some difference to their lives," Moya said.

U.S. awarded Olympic equestrian gold

LONDON — Germany's Olympic team show jumping gold medal will go to the United States after the International Equestrian Federation announced it had disqualified rider Ludger Beerbaum and horse Goldfever for a doping offense.

"It's very exciting for us. It's an unfortunate thing for the sport, but it's nice for the Americans. It's exciting to win the gold medal, not in the traditional way, but it's still a gold medal," U.S. team member McLain Ward said. Now Sweden will be awarded the silver, and Germany will drop to the bronze because the sport's governing body erased Goldfever's results from the Athens event.

"The Judicial Committee has agreed that the horse, Goldfever, and (Beerbaum) must be disqualified from the event and that all prizes and prize money won at the event must be forfeited," the FEI said in a statement on its Web site.

The rider — who has denied cheating — said the banned steroid betamethasone was contained in an ointment used to

treat a skin irritation on the horse.

American Koznick second in Cup slalom

SANTA CATERINA VALFURVA, Italy — Marlies Schild of Austria won a slalom Sunday for her third World Cup victory this season while Kristina Koznick was runner-up for her second top-three result this season.

Schild covered the two runs on the new Deborah Cossignani course in 1 minute, 29.96 seconds, moving up from third after the first run. Koznick, the first-run leader, was 0.15 seconds behind.

Germany's Monika Bergmann-Schmuddeger was third, 0.24 back.

Miller fails to finish World Cup race

CHAMONIX, France — Italy's Giorgio Rocca won his second straight slalom Sunday, easily capturing a race in which overall World Cup leader Bode Miller failed to finish the first leg.

He had a combined time of 1 minute, 28.33 seconds — 23 seconds ahead of runner-up Benjamin Raich of Austria. Markus Larsson of Sweden, 14th after the opening leg, finished third in 1:29.51.

Miller has finished only one World Cup slalom this season.

Thank You!!!

Stars and Stripes thanks Rhein Military Car Sales for their enduring support and sponsoring of the newspaper for the R&R Soldiers in transit at Rhein-Main Air Force Base.

Houston rins out of time for Beltran

Mets trying to make deal with All-Star center fielder

BY JOEL ANDERSON

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Carlos Beltran's stay in Houston almost certainly will be short.

The Astros failed to reach an agreement with the All-Star center fielder before an 11 p.m. CST Saturday deadline, and Beltran is all but certain to leave the team he helped come within a win of its first World Series appearance.

Under the rules of baseball's labor contract, Houston cannot sign Beltran until May 1 — virtually assuring he'll go to another team. The Astros had been bidding for Beltran against the New York Mets and perhaps other teams.

Beltran and agent Scott Boras made the Astros sweat this one out. Houston General Manager Tim Lincecum had said that Houston made its final offer to Beltran on Thursday. Boras had been seeking more than \$100 million.

"Scott called us to let us know they were going to go in a different direction," Purpura said. "I think if I show up in the right mood, certainly disappointed."

Boras was trying to finalize a contract with the Mets early Sunday. The sides kept on talking after the deadline passed, trying to reach an agreement.

There was no immediate comment from the Mets.

Over the past few months, the New York Yankees, Chicago Cubs and Detroit Tigers also were thought to be pursuing Beltran.

Regardless, the courtship of Beltran will be a bitter-sweet memory for the Astros.

He came to Houston in a mid-season trade from Kansas City, with the Astros hoping he'd provide a spark for a team that was clearly underachieving. Beltran did his part, but the Astros continued to stumble well into the summer, raising speculation that he'd be traded again.

Houston kept him and was glad it did. He was a big reason the Astros finished 36-10 and made the playoffs.

Beltran then sent his price soaring during a remarkable postseason run with the Astros, batting .417 in the NL championship series with four home runs, five RBIs and four steals. He also hit 455 with 40 homers and nine RBIs in the first round.

Since the Astros' season ended in Game 7 of the NLCS in St. Louis, Houston officials had little contact with Beltran.

During negotiations, Purpura said the Astros talked with Beltran only once. That was during a Dec. 22 meeting at the team's spring training camp in Kissimmee, Fla.

And as the deadline approached Saturday, Purpura said the Astros and Boras didn't really discuss specifics of the offer until late in the afternoon.

"The serious parts of this only happened in the last six hours," Purpura said. "Really, I think we ran out of time."

Mostly, it's time and distance. Certainly regret the fact that we didn't deal with some of these things earlier — but we didn't control the pace of the negotiations."

Without Beltran and the loss of All-Star second baseman Jeff Kent to the Dodgers, the Astros will have a hard time persuading Roger Clemens not to retire.

Clemens, 42, has said he would make a decision in January whether to retire or play. The Rocket intended to quit after the 2003 season, then changed his mind and signed with his hometown team, winning the Cy Young Award for a record sixth time.

"Certainly we will welcome Roger back," Purpura said. "We're not going to shift into a rebuilding mode because of this."

Purpura said the candidates to replace Beltran in center field most likely be Jason Lane, minor-league prospect Will Taveras or Craig Biggio, who held the position before Beltran joined the team.

He also said Houston had not ruled out a trade to upgrade the spot.

While talking with Beltran, the Mets agreed to a one-year contract with South Korean left-hander Dae Sung Koo, who pitched in the 2000 Olympics and spent the last four years with the Orix Blue-Wave in Japan's Pacific League.

"I'm excited about the chance to pitch in the major leagues," Koo said in a statement. "It's been my dream to face the highest level of competition possible. I'm thankful to get this opportunity."

Among players eligible for salary arbitration, Texas catcher Rod Barajas agreed to a \$1.85 million, one-year deal.

Pitcher Pedro Astacio (Boston) and catcher Brent Mayne (Los Angeles) also let the deadline pass.

Mayne indicated previously he probably would retire if the Dodgers didn't sign him.

David McCarty beat Saturday night's deadline to stay with the Boston Red Sox, agreeing to a minor league contract that would pay him \$50,000 salary if he is added to the major league roster.

McCarty, a first baseman and outfielder, hit 258 with four home runs and 17 RBIs in 91 games over the Winter Series championships last season. He played first in 67 games and in the outfield in 17 games.



Rams tight end Cameron Cleeland makes his only catch of the day for the winning touchdown in Seattle.

Rams: St. Louis rolling at right time

RAMS, FROM BACK PAGE

And this one stings a little more because the NFC West rival Rams became the first 8-8 team in NFL history to win in the playoffs.

"One of those years, we're going to win a playoff game and take that next step," said coach Mike Holmgren, who is 0-3 in the playoffs in six seasons with Seattle, which has lost six playoff games going back to that last win. "It will happen if we keep the team together."

The Rams, who will travel to Philadelphia or Atlanta for next week's divisional round, beat Seattle in all three meetings this season, twice in Seattle. Their only other road win this year was at San Francisco, which finished 2-14, the NFL's worst record.

But they're heating up at the right time.

They won their final two games

to reach the playoffs, with Bulger throwing for a season-high 450 yards and three TDs in last week-end's 32-29 overtime defeat of the New York Jets.

"Maybe it's just knowing our butts are on the line. You've got to play well or you're going home," guard Adam Timmerman said. "It's unfortunate it took that urgency for us to get things done, but we're playing our best ball right now."

Jeff Wilkins tied it at 20 on a 27-yard field goal with 8:07 to play. The defense forced a punt, then Bulger got busy. He led a seven-play, 76-yard drive, throwing twice on the decisive drive to receivers who hadn't caught a pass all day.

First came a 31-yard gain on third-and-2 on a swing pass to Shaun McDonald in his first catch — then Bulger found Kevin Curtis for another 13 yards.

Cleeland's TD was his first catch of the day, too.

"I was waiting," Cleeland said. "I had a couple plays where Marc got sacked and didn't have a chance to get it to me. I was just waiting for my number to get called, and I made the play. It was a simple seam route."

Bulger completed 18 of 32 attempts with one interception, but it was his leadership and calm demeanor that meant just as much to the Rams.

"If you want someone in the foxhole when it counts, somebody to take that last shot at the buzzer, you want it to be Mark," coach Mike Martz said. "That's his personality. That's one of the things that makes him different."

Torry Holt caught six passes for 108 yards and one score, and Curtis had four receptions for 107 yards receiving.

Hasselbeck finished 27-for-43 for 341 yards passing with two TDs and one interception.

Manning, McNabb named Pro Bowl starters

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Peyton Manning will start at quarterback for the AFC, and Donovan McNabb will be the NFC's starting signal caller in next month's Pro Bowl.

The starters for the game, to be played in Honolulu on Feb. 13, were announced Saturday.

Manning will be joined in the AFC lineup by his Indianapolis Colts teammate Edgerrin James at running back; Tony Richardson of Kansas City at fullback; Marvin Harrison of the Colts and Chad Johnson of Cincinnati at wide receiver; Antonio Gates of San Diego at tight end; Willie Roaf of Kansas City and Jonathan Ogden of Baltimore at tackle;

Alan Faneca of Pittsburgh and Will Shields of the Chiefs at guard; and Kevin Mawae of the New York Jets at center.

The starters on defense for the AFC are John Abraham of the Jets and Dwight Freeney of the Colts at end; Richard Seymour of New England and Marcus Stroud of Jacksonville at tackle; Takeo Spikes of Buffalo and Terrell Suggs and Ray Lewis of Baltimore at linebacker; Champ Bailey of Denver and the Ravens' Chris McAlister at cornerback; and Baltimore's Ed Reed and Denver's John Lynch at safety.

McNabb will be joined on the NFC offense by running back Shaun Alexander of Seattle; fullback William Henderson of

Green Bay; tight end Alge Crumpler of Atlanta; wide receivers Muhsin Muhammad of Carolina and Terrell Owens of the Eagles; tackles Walter Jones of Seattle and Orlando Pace of St. Louis; guards Larry Allen of Dallas and Marco Rivera of Green Bay; and center Olin Kreutz of Chicago.

The NFC defense has Arizona's Bertrand Berry and Carolina's Julius Peppers at end; LaRo Glover of Dallas and Kevin Williams of Minnesota at tackle; linebackers Keith Brooking of Atlanta, Derrick Brooks of Tampa Bay and Dan Morgan of Carolina; cornerbacks Lou Sheppard of the Eagles and Ronde Barber of Tampa Bay; and safeties Michael Lewis and Brian Dawkins of Philadelphia.

NFL scoreboard

Playoff game
Wild-Cat playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 8
St. Louis 27, San Diego 17
N.Y. Jets 20, San Diego 17
Sunday, Jan. 9
Denver at Indianapolis
Minnesota at Green Bay

Saturday
Rams 27, Seahawks 20
St. Louis 17
Seattle 17

St. Louis—Hot 15 pass from Bulger (Wilkins kick), 14:47.
Seattle—FG Brown 47, 2:05.
St. Louis—FG Brown 47, 2:05.
Seattle—FG Brown 47, 2:05.

Second Quarter
St. Louis—Faulk 1 run (Wilkins kick), 13:32.
Seattle—Faulk 19 pass from Hasselbeck (Brown kick), 8:18.
St. Louis—FG Brown 47, 2:05.
Seattle—FG Wilkins 28, 5:25.

Third Quarter
St. Louis—Duckett 23 pass from Hasselbeck (Brown kick), 13:47.
Seattle—FG Wilkins 27, 8:07.
St. Louis—Hot 17 pass from Bulger (Wilkins kick), 2:11.

First downs 22 24
Total Net Yards 206 413
Passing 204 312
Rushing 2 101
Turnovers 1 0
Kickoff Returns 5-101 6-109
Interceptions 0 0

Comp-Att Int Yds TD
St. Louis—Bulger 18-37 1 274-31
Seattle—Hasselbeck 12-20 0 160-19

Penalties-Yards 4-30 4-41
Fumbles-Lost 0-0 0-0
Possession Time 32:39 32:21

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing—St. Louis: Bulger 18, Bruce 11, Seattle: Jackson 12, Bush 10, Hasselbeck 10, Morris 5, 4.
Passing—St. Louis: Bulger 18-32-1-31, Seattle: Hasselbeck 12-20-0-160.
Receiving—St. Louis: Holt 6-108, Curtis 4-60, Bruce 4-40, 1 TD, Seattle: Jackson 12-17-153, Jackson 1-1minus 2, Seattle: D. Jackson 2-16, Miller 1-1, 98, Robinson 1-1, 34, Alexander 1-23, Stevens 1-16.

Jets, Chargers 17 (OT)
N.Y. Jets 17
San Diego 17

San Diego—McCarthy 28 pass from Pennington (Kneading kick), 1:24.
N.Y. Jets—Moss 47 pass from Pennington (Brien kick), 10:28.

Second Quarter
San Diego—McCarthy 28 pass from Pennington (Kneading kick), 10:28.
N.Y. Jets—Moss 47 pass from Pennington (Brien kick), 1:24.

Third Quarter
N.Y. Jets—Moss 47 pass from Pennington (Brien kick), 10:28.
San Diego—FG Kneading 15, 10:47.

Fourth Quarter
N.Y. Jets—Moss 47 pass from Pennington (Brien kick), 11.
San Diego—FG Kneading 15, 10:47.

Overtime
N.Y. Jets—FG Kneading 15, 10:47.
San Diego—FG Kneading 15, 10:47.

First downs 20 24
Total Net Yards 286 306
Passing 286 306
Rushing 0 0
Turnovers 0 0
Kickoff Returns 0 0
Interceptions 0 0
Possession Time 32:39 32:21

Comp-Att Int Yds TD
San Diego—McCarthy 28-40 0 314-31
N.Y. Jets—Moss 47-70 0 1-1

Penalties-Yards 0-0 0-0
Fumbles-Lost 0-0 0-0
Possession Time 32:39 32:21

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing—N.Y. Jets: Martin 18-66, Jordan 7-56, Pennington 1-5, San Diego: Tomlinson 26-80, Brees 17, Neal 1, Parker 1-6.
Passing—N.Y. Jets: Moss 47-70-0-314.
Receiving—N.Y. Jets: Martin 18-66, Jordan 7-56, Baker 2-16, Neal 1-6, Parker 1-6, Brees 17-118, McCarthy 1-1, 98, McCarthy 1-1, 34, Alexander 1-23, Stevens 1-16.

San Diego—McCarthy 28 pass from Pennington (Kneading kick), 1:24.
N.Y. Jets—Moss 47 pass from Pennington (Brien kick), 10:28.

Second Quarter
San Diego—McCarthy 28 pass from Pennington (Kneading kick), 1:24.
N.Y. Jets—Moss 47 pass from Pennington (Brien kick), 10:28.

Third Quarter
N.Y. Jets—Moss 47 pass from Pennington (Brien kick), 10:28.
San Diego—FG Kneading 15, 10:47.

Fourth Quarter
N.Y. Jets—Moss 47 pass from Pennington (Brien kick), 10:28.
San Diego—FG Kneading 15, 10:47.

Overtime
N.Y. Jets—Moss 47 pass from Pennington (Brien kick), 10:28.
San Diego—FG Kneading 15, 10:47.

OT: Chargers' miss leads to Jets' win

OT, FROM BACK PAGE

But the Chargers forced overtime when All-Pro tight end Antonio Gates caught a 1-yard touchdown pass from Pro Bowler Drew Brees to tie it at 17 with 11 seconds left in regulation.

It came one play after Jets linebacker Eric Barton was whistled for a personal foul for hitting Brees on the helmet with his right forearm after Brees threw a desperation pass on fourth-and-goal that was batted down in the end zone.

As Brien kicked the winning field goal, Barton sighed in relief.

"I needed guys to die me out of this and they did," Barton said.

Brien's winning kick came minutes after Kneading's fub.

"I don't know what happened," Kneading said. "I let my teammates and my coaches down and I wasn't able to look them in the eye when I came back in the locker room knowing that I didn't do my job."

Pennington, who's led the Jets to three straight wins in San Diego dating to 2002, was 23-for-33 for 279 yards and was 31-for-47 for 319 yards.

Pennington threw a go-ahead, 47-yard touchdown pass to Moss early in the third quarter.

His second TD pass of the night went to at least 55 yards in the air, and Moss caught it 2 yards deep in the end zone after getting blocked by Jerry Wilson and cornerback Quentin Jammer. That score gave the Jets a 14-7 lead.

The Jets ended a five-game road playoff losing streak. The last time they won away from home was Jan. 15, 1983, when they beat the Los Angeles Raiders 17-14.

The Jets got into the playoffs only because Buffalo lost to Pittsburgh last weekend.

The Chargers were undisciplined, including their coach.

Schottenheimer was flagged for unsportsmanlike conduct for running onto the field after punter Mike Scifres took a dive in the second quarter.

NFL playoff overtimes

Jan. 8, 2005—New York Jets 20, San Diego Chargers 17 (AFC Wild Card), 14:25.

Jan. 12, 2004—Philadelphia Eagles 27, Green Bay Packers 17 (NFC Div. Playoff), 14:25.

Jan. 20, 2004—Carolina Panthers 29, St. Louis Rams 17 (AFC Div. Playoff), 14:25.

Jan. 4, 2004—Green Bay Packers 33, St. Louis Rams 17 (AFC Div. Playoff), 14:25.

Jan. 11, 2003—Tennessee Titans 24, Pittsburgh Steelers 31 (AFC Div. Playoff), 14:25.

Jan. 15, 2002—New England Patriots 24, Oakland Raiders 27 (AFC Div. Playoff), 14:25.

Dec. 28, 2000—Miami Dolphins 23, Indianapolis Colts 17 (AFC Wild Card), 13:41.

Jan. 15, 1999—Atlanta Falcons 34, New York Giants 13 (NFC Championship), 1:59.

Jan. 8, 1994—Kansas City Chiefs 27, Pittsburgh Steelers 24 (AFC Wild Card), 11:03.

Jan. 8, 1993—Buffalo Bills 41, Houston Oilers 38 (AFC Wild Card), 3:06.

Jan. 3, 1990—Los Angeles Rams 20, New York Giants 13 (NFC Div. Playoff), 1:59.

Dec. 31, 1989—Pittsburgh Steelers 26, Houston Oilers 23 (AFC Wild Card), 5:26.

Jan. 3, 1988—Houston Oilers 21, Seattle Seahawks 23 (AFC Wild Card), 3:06.

Jan. 11, 1987—Denver Broncos 23, Cleveland Browns 27 (AFC Championship), 5:28.

Jan. 8, 1987—Cleveland Browns 23, Miami Dolphins 38 (AFC Div. Playoff), 17:07.

Jan. 2, 1982—San Diego Chargers 41, Miami Dolphins 38 (AFC Div. Playoff), 13:52.

Dec. 24, 1987—Oakland Raiders 37, Baltimore Colts 31 (AFC Div. Playoff), 15:43.

Dec. 25, 1987—Miami Dolphins 27, Kansas City Chiefs 24 (AFC Div. Playoff), 1:59.

Dec. 26, 1986—Green Bay Packers 13, Baltimore Colts 10 (NFL Western Conference Playoff), 13:35.

Dec. 24, 1985—Dallas Texans 20, Houston Oilers 17 (AFL Championship), 17:54.

Dec. 26, 1980—Buffalo Bills 23, New York Jets 17 (NFL Championship), 8:15.



Jets linebacker Eric Barton (50) was called for roughing the passer for hitting Chargers quarterback Drew Brees after Brees released a pass in the fourth quarter. The penalty allowed San Diego to tie the game.

Barton let off hook for 'stupid' penalty

BY ANDREA ADELSON

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO—Eric Barton really did breathe a sigh of relief, thanks to his teammates.

Chad Pennington engineered a marvelous game-winning drive after the San Diego Chargers missed a field goal that would have won it, vaulting the Jets to a 20-17 overtime victory in the wild-card game Saturday night.

"What a thrilling way for the Jets to show they deserved to be on the team backed into the playoffs. New York ended the regular-season with losses in three of their last four games. But coach Herman Edwards wanted his club to show it belonged in the postseason."

Barton, a free-agent pickup from Oakland, was flagged for roughing the passer after Drew Brees threw incomplete on fourth down with 16 seconds left in regulation. Instead of ending the game, San Diego got a fresh set of downs, and Drew Brees threw a 1-yard touchdown pass to Antonio Gates to send the game into overtime.

Before the Jets got their first possession in the extra period, Barton went up to Pennington and said, "I need you to get me out of this." He almost failed Barton. The Chargers looked as though they would win, but Nate Kaeding missed a 40-yard field goal wide right.

"I was praying to God he missed it," Barton said. "When the Jets got their second chance, Pennington took advantage. He threw two completions, and LaMont Jordan had a big 19-yard run to put the Jets in field goal range."

Barton deeply exhaled and pointed to the sky after Doug Brien's winning field goal and received hugs from his jubilant teammates.

Not only did the Jets pull off the upset, they won a playoff road game for the first time since Jan. 15, 1983, when Richard Todd led a 17-14 upset of the Los Angeles Raiders.

"It was a stupid play, and I was wrong," Barton said. "If we hadn't won, I would have taken full responsibility."

Pennington never blamed his teammate.

"I don't fault Eric Barton, we voted him the most inspirational player on this team," Pennington said. "Every down and every game he plays like it's his last. That was one play where his aggressiveness backfired."

All week, the Jets had to listen to their doubters talk about how the team backed into the playoffs. New York ended the regular-season with losses in three of their last four games. But coach Herman Edwards wanted his club to show it belonged in the postseason."

Now, the Jets move on to play another road game against Pittsburgh or New England, teams they went 0-3 against earlier this season.

Edwards showed a little more fire than usual on the sideline, when he nearly came to blows with running backs coach Bishop Harris. Though Edwards declined to specify why they were arguing, at the time of the fight Jordan was in the game instead of NFL rushing champion Curtis Martin.

Fullback Jerald Sovell had to restrain the two. After walking away, Harris said something else and Edwards turned back toward his assistant.

"That's family emotions coming out in a playoff game, and that's good," Edwards said. "He's a heck of a football coach, that was an incident, it's over with, and we're fine."

Pennington, playing with a sore right rotator cuff, proved he could win a big game after several poor recent performances. He also made his best throw since before he got hurt against Buffalo in November, when he threw a beautiful 47-yard touchdown pass to Santana Moss.

Live on the Edge with Tony?

Did you know that Stars and Stripes delivers to addresses on the local economy?

We are expanding our off-base delivery all the time.

Call today and find out if you live within our delivery area.

customer.service@mail.estripes.com
 (314) 459-6111 • DSN 349-8262

Get the news that affects your business and the lives of your family. Every day.

STARS AND STRIPES
 Your Hometown Newspaper

SPORTS



Tar Heels make it look easy
against overwhelped Terps,
Page 31

Visiting teams win wild ones

Rams escape Seattle, add to Seahawks' playoff pain

BY TIM KORTE
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Matt Hasselbeck waited all season to redeem himself for what happened in last season's playoffs at Green Bay.

One year later, the outcome was painfully similar.

Matt Bulger threw for 313 yards and two touchdowns, the last a 17-yarder to Cam Cleeland with 2:11 to play Saturday, leading the Rams to a 27-20 win over Seattle and making St. Louis the first team without a winning record to advance in the playoffs.

"We know we're a good team," Bulger said. "We have talent, but we've made a lot of mistakes this year. Seattle played us good, but fortunately we've been making plays the last three weeks when we've had to and that wasn't the case all year."

Hasselbeck led a final charge but came up short again. Last year, his throw for Alex Bannister was picked off by Green Bay's Al Harris and returned 52 yards for an overtime TD.

This time, Seattle faced fourth-and-4 at the Rams' 5 with 27 seconds remaining. Hasselbeck stepped into the pocket, briefly considered running and then sidestepped a pass that zipped through Bobby Engram's hands in the end zone.

"The ball was coming in hot. It was a little tight in there. I think I surprised him a little bit," Hasselbeck said.

"I've got to find a way to make that play," Engram said.

Hasselbeck dropped to his knees and pounded on the turf.

He stood and slapped both hands on his helmet. Then he let out a scream of frustration, appearing ready to break into tears as he headed to the sideline.

"I wish I had it back," he said. "That's one play that could have done it for us. I'm sure there are a bunch of others earlier in the game that could have done it for us. I'm not going to dwell on that too much."

The Seahawks, who won the NFC West at 9-7 despite losing twice to St. Louis, haven't won a playoff game since Dec. 22, 1984, the NFL's longest drought.

SEE RAMS ON PAGE 34



Seahawks quarterback Matt Hasselbeck, center, reacts after throwing an incomplete pass in the end zone to Bobby Engram on fourth down in the closing quarters of the NFC wild-card playoff game while Rams players celebrate the 27-20 victory in Seattle on Saturday.

Brien's OT kick makes Schottenheimer one-and-done again

BY BERNIE WILSON
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The same New York Jets who backed into the playoffs were the latest team to usher Marty Schottenheimer into the offseason.

Doug Brien kicked a 28-yard field goal with 5 seconds left in overtime to get linebacker Eric Barton off the hook for a huge penalty and give the Jets a 20-17 upset over the Chargers in a wild-card game Saturday night.

The winning drive started on the New York 30 after Chargers rookie Nate Kaeding was wide right on a 40-yard field goal try with 4:19 left in overtime. It included an 18-yard pass from Pennington to Santana Moss that was upheld on review.

The Jets celebrated wildly while Schottenheimer walked across the field with a far-off look on his face.

"That has to be one of the most dramatic games I've been a part of," said New York's Curtis Martin, the regular-season rushing champ who was held to 66 yards on 18 carries.

And just like that, Schottenheimer still can't win in the playoffs. Named the Coach of the Year earlier in the day, he suffered his fifth straight playoff loss dating to 1993 with the Kansas City Chiefs and fell to 5-12 in his ca-



Above left, Jets holder Toby Gowin (4) congratulates kicker Doug Brien (6) after Brien kicked the winning field goal in overtime. Earlier in OT, Chargers kicker Nate Kaeding, above right, missed a field goal that would have given San Diego the victory in the AFC wild-card game.

reer, which also included a stop in Cleveland. Schottenheimer's teams have gone one-and-out eight times.

"I've been through this before; that's been well-documented," Schottenheimer said. "My disappointment, quite frankly, is with the players in that locker room and the community."

Chad Pennington, bothered by a sore throwing shoulder for five games, threw two touchdown passes for the Jets, who led 17-7 late in the third quarter and should have won in regulation.

SEE OT ON PAGE 35

Mavs hit 74 percent of first-half shots in rout

Page 32

